



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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Shipping Information Notice – 131 Amendments to SOLAS Chapter V: Regulations 31 & 32 – Danger Messages

To: Masters, Owners, Operators, Recognised Organisations, Certifying Authorities & Industry Associations

1. References

- IMO Resolution MSC.550(108)
- SOLAS 2023 Amendment (108th) / Chapter V / Reg. 31 & 32
- Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Survey, Certification and Safety) Regulations 2004

2. Introduction

- 2.1. IMO Resolution MSC.550(108) brings into effect revisions to SOLAS Chapter V, Regulations 31 and 32.
- 2.2. The amended Regulations establish a unified framework for reporting incidents involving freight containers lost at sea.
- 2.3. Under the new requirements, ship Masters must promptly report both the loss and any sightings of drifting containers. This ensures swift communication with nearby vessels, relevant coastal authorities, and the vessel's flag State.
- 2.4. The primary objectives of these amendments are to enhance maritime safety, safeguard the marine environment, and improve the ability to track and recover lost cargo.

3. Application

- 3.1. The Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Survey, Certification and Safety) Regulations 2004 (as amended), Part VIII, invoke the SOLAS Chapter V requirements in respect of Gibraltar registered ships.
- 3.2. The revised SOLAS Chapter V, Regulations 31 & 32 become effective as from 01 January 2026.

4. Guidance

- 4.1. Masters and operators of Gibraltar registered ships subject to SOLAS Chapter V, Regulations 31 & 32 requirements are strongly encouraged to review the revised requirements, and for consideration to be given to the development and/or enhancement of related procedures contained within International Safety Management (ISM) procedures and/or instructions.

Steve Gomez - Chief Surveyor
For & on behalf of the Maritime Administrator

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