IMO

SOLAS
Chapter XIV

Regulation 1
Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter:

1 *Polar Code* means the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters, consisting of an introduction and parts I-A and II-A and parts I-B and II-B, as adopted by resolutions MSC.385(94) and of the Marine Environment Protection Committee*, as may be amended, provided that:

.1 amendments to the safety-related provisions of the introduction and part I-A of the Polar Code are adopted, brought into force and take effect in accordance with the provisions of article VIII of the present Convention concerning the amendment procedures applicable to the annex other than chapter I; and

.2 amendments to part I-B of the Polar Code are adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee in accordance with its Rules of Procedure.

2 *Antarctic area* means the sea area south of latitude 60° S.

3 *Arctic waters* means those waters which are located north of a line from the latitude 58º00´.0 N and longitude 042º00'.0 W to latitude 64º37'.0 N, longitude 035º27'.0 W and thence by a rhumb line to latitude 67º03'.9 N, longitude 026º33'.4 W and thence by a rhumb line to the latitude 70º49'.56 N and longitude 008º59'.61 W (Sørkapp, Jan Mayen) and by the southern shore of Jan Mayen to 73º31'.6 N and 019º01'.0 E by the Island of Bjørnøya, and thence by a great circle line to the latitude 68º38'.29 N and longitude 043°23'.08 E (Cap Kanin Nos) and hence by the northern shore of the Asian Continent eastward to the Bering Strait and thence from the Bering Strait westward to latitude 60º N as far as Il'pyrskiy and following the 60th North parallel eastward as far as and including Etolin Strait and thence by the northern shore of the North American continent as far south as latitude 60º N and thence eastward along parallel of latitude 60º N, to longitude 056º37'.1 W and thence to the latitude 58º00'.0 N, longitude 042º00'.0 W.

4 *Polar waters* means Arctic waters and/or the Antarctic area.

5 *Ship constructed* means a ship the keel of which is laid or which is at a similar stage of construction.

6 *At a similar stage of construction* means the stage at which:

.1 construction identifiable with a specific ship begins; and

.2 assembly of that ship has commenced comprising at least 50 tonnes or 1% of the estimated mass of all structural material, whichever is less.

Regulation 2
Application

1 Unless expressly provided otherwise, this chapter applies to ships operating in polar waters, certified in accordance with chapter I.

2 Ships constructed before 1 January 2017 shall meet the relevant requirements of the Polar Code by the first intermediate or renewal survey, whichever occurs first, after 1 January 2018.

3 In applying part I-A of the Polar Code, consideration should be given to the additional guidance in part I-B of the Polar Code.

4 This chapter shall not apply to ships owned or operated by a Contracting Government and used, for the time being, only in Government non-commercial service. However, ships owned or operated by a Contracting Government and used, for the time being, only in Government noncommercial service are encouraged to act in a manner consistent, so far as reasonable and practicable, with this chapter.

5 Nothing in this chapter shall prejudice the rights or obligations of States under international law.

Regulation 3
Requirements for ships to which this chapter applies

1 Ships to which this chapter applies shall comply with the requirements of the safetyrelated provision of the introduction and with part I-A of the Polar Code and shall, in addition to the requirements of regulations I/7, I/8, I/9, and I/10, as applicable, be surveyed and certified, as provided for in that Code.

2 Ships to which this chapter applies holding a certificate issued pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 shall be subject to the control established in regulations I/19 and XI-1/4. For this purpose, such certificates shall be treated as a certificate issued under regulation I/12 or I/13.

Regulation 4
Alternative design and arrangement

1 The goal of this regulation is to provide a methodology for alternative design and arrangements for structure, machinery, and electrical installations, fire safety and life-saving appliances and arrangements.

2 Structural arrangements, machinery and electrical installation, fire safety design and arrangement measures and as well as life-saving appliances and arrangements may deviate from the prescriptive requirements set out in chapters 3, 6, 7 and 8 of the Polar Code, provided that the alternative design and arrangements meet the intent of the goal and functional requirements concerned and provide an equivalent level of safety to the requirements in those chapters.

3 When alternative designs or arrangements deviate from the prescriptive requirements of chapters 3, 6, 7 and 8 of the Polar Code, an engineering analysis, evaluation and approval of the design and arrangements shall be carried out based on the guidelines approved by the Organization*.

4 Any alternative designs or arrangement deviating from the prescriptive requirements shall be recorded in the Polar Ship Certificate and the ship's Polar Water Operational Manual, as required by the Polar Code, also defining the technical and operational measures and conditions for the allowed deviation.

POLAR CODE
Excerpt

CHAPTER 7 – FIRE SAFETY/PROTECTION

7.1 Goal

The goal of this chapter is to ensure that fire safety systems and appliances are effective and operable, and that means of escape remain available so that persons on board can safely and swiftly escape to the lifeboat and liferaft embarkation deck under the expected environmental conditions.

7.2 Functional requirements

7.2.1 In order to achieve the goal set out in paragraph 7.1 above, the following functional requirements are embodied in the regulations of this chapter:

.1 all components of fire safety systems and appliances if installed in exposed positions shall be protected from ice accretion and snow accumulation;

.2 local equipment and machinery controls shall be arranged so as to avoid freezing, snow accumulation and ice accretion and their location to remain accessible at all time;

.3 the design of fire safety systems and appliances shall take into consideration the need for persons to wear bulky and cumbersome cold weather gear, where appropriate;

.4 means shall be provided to remove or prevent ice and snow accretion from accesses; and

.5 extinguishing media shall be suitable for intended operation.

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7.2.2 In addition, for ships intended to operate in low air temperature, the following apply:

.1 all components of fire safety systems and appliances shall be designed to ensure availability and effectiveness under the polar service temperature; and

.2 materials used in exposed fire safety systems shall be suitable for operation at the polar service temperature.

7.3 Regulations

7.3.1 In order to comply with the requirement of paragraph 7.2.1.1, the following apply:

.1 isolating and pressure/vacuum valves in exposed locations are to be protected from ice accretion and remain accessible at all time; and

.2 all two-way portable radio communication equipment shall be operable at the polar service temperature.

7.3.2 In order to comply with the requirement of paragraph 7.2.1.2, the following apply:

.1 fire pumps including emergency fire pumps, water mist and water spray pumps shall be located in compartments maintained above freezing;

.2 the fire main is to be arranged so that exposed sections can be isolated and means of draining of exposed sections shall be provided. Fire hoses and nozzles need not be connected to the fire main at all times, and may be stored in protected locations near the hydrants;

.3 firefighter's outfits shall be stored in warm locations on the ship; and

.4 where fixed water-based firefighting systems are located in a space separate from the main fire pumps and use their own independent sea suction, this sea suction is to be also capable of being cleared of ice accumulation.

7.3.3 In addition, for ships intended to operate in low air temperature, the following apply:

.1 In order to comply with the requirement of paragraph 7.2.2.1, portable and semi-portable extinguishers shall be located in positions protected from freezing temperatures, as far as practical. Locations subject to freezing are to be provided with extinguishers capable of operation under the polar service temperature.

.2 In order to comply with the functional requirements of paragraph 7.2.2.2 above, materials of exposed fire safety systems shall be approved by the Administration, or a recognized organization accepted by it, taking into account standards acceptable to the Organization12 or other standards offering an equivalent level of safety based on the polar service temperature.

CHAPTER 8 – LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND ARRANGEMENTS

8.1 Goal

The goal of this chapter is to provide for safe escape, evacuation and survival.

8.2 Functional requirements

In order to achieve the goal set out in paragraph 8.1 above, the following functional requirements are embodied in the regulations of this chapter:

8.2.1 …

8.2.2 …

8.3 Regulations

8.3.1 Escape

In order to comply with the functional requirements of paragraphs 8.2.1.1 and 8.2.1.2 above, the following apply:

.1 for ships exposed to ice accretion, means shall be provided to remove or

prevent ice and snow accretion from escape routes, muster stations, embarkation areas, survival craft, its launching appliances and access to urvival craft;

.2 in addition, for ships constructed on or after 1 January 2017, exposed escape routes shall be arranged so as not to hinder passage by persons wearing suitable polar clothing; and

.3 in addition, for ships intended to operate in low air temperatures, adequacy of embarkation arrangements shall be assessed, having full regard to any effect of persons wearing additional polar clothing.

8.3.2 …

8.3.3 Survival

8.3.3.1 In order to comply with the functional requirement of paragraph 8.2.3.1 above, the following apply:

.1 for passenger ships, a proper sized immersion suit or a thermal protective aid shall be provided for each person on board; and

.2 where immersion suits are required, they shall be of the insulated type.

8.3.3.2 In addition, for ships intended to operate in extended periods of darkness, in order to comply with the functional requirements of paragraph 8.2.3.2 above, searchlights suitable for continuous use to facilitate identification of ice shall be provided for each lifeboat.

8.3.3.3 …

.6 passengers shall be instructed in the use of the personal survival equipment and the action to take in an emergency; and

.7 the crew shall be trained in the use of the personal survival equipment and group survival equipment.

CHAPTER 9 – SAFETY OF NAVIGATION

9.1 …

9.2 Functional requirements

In order to achieve the goal set out in paragraph 9.1 above, the following functional requirements are embodied in the regulations of this chapter.

9.2.1 Nautical information

Ships shall have the ability to receive up-to-date information including ice information for safe navigation.

9.2.2 Navigational equipment functionality

9.2.2.1 The navigational equipment and systems shall be designed, constructed, and installed to retain their functionality under the expected environmental conditions in the area of operation.

9.2.2.2 Systems for providing reference headings and position fixing shall be suitable for the intended areas.

9.2.3 Additional navigational equipment

9.2.3.1 Ships shall have the ability to visually detect ice when operating in darkness.

9.2.3.2 Ships involved in operations with an icebreaker escort shall have suitable means to indicate when the ship is stopped.

9.3 Regulations

9.3.1 Nautical information

In order to comply with the functional requirement of paragraph 9.2.1 above, ships shall have means of receiving and displaying current information on ice conditions in the area of operation.

9.3.2 Navigational equipment functionality

9.3.2.1 In order to comply with the functional requirement of paragraph 9.2.2.1 above, the following apply:

.1 ships constructed on or after 1 January 2017, ice strengthened in accordance with chapter 3, shall have either two independent echo-sounding devices or one echo-sounding device with two separate independent transducers;

.2 ships shall comply with SOLAS regulation V/22.1.9.4, irrespective of the date of construction and the size and, depending on the bridge configuration, a clear view astern;

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.3 for ships operating in areas, and during periods, where ice accretion is likely to occur, means to prevent the accumulation of ice on antennas required for navigation and communication shall be provided; and

.4 in addition, for ships ice strengthened in accordance with chapter 3, the following apply:

.1 where equipment required by SOLAS chapter V or this chapter have sensors that project below the hull, such sensors shall be protected against ice; and

.2 …

9.3.2.2 In order to comply with the functional requirement of paragraph 9.2.2.2 above, the following apply:

.1 ships shall have two non-magnetic means to determine and display their heading. Both means shall be independent and shall be connected to the ship's main and emergency source of power; and

.2 ships proceeding to latitudes over 80 degrees shall be fitted with at least one GNSS compass or equivalent, which shall be connected to the ship's main and emergency source of power.

9.3.3 Additional navigational equipment

9.3.3.1 In order to comply with the functional requirement of paragraph 9.2.3.1 ships, with the exception of those solely operating in areas with 24 hours daylight, shall be equipped with two remotely rotatable, narrow-beam search lights controllable from the bridge to provide lighting over an arc of 360 degrees, or other means to visually detect ice.

9.3.3.2 In order to comply with the functional requirement of paragraph 9.2.3.2, ships involved in operations with an icebreaker escort shall be equipped with a manually initiated flashing red light visible from astern to indicate when the ship is stopped. This light shall have a range of visibility of at least two nautical miles, and the horizontal and vertical arcs of visibility shall conform to the stern light specifications required by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

CHAPTER 10 – COMMUNICATION

10.1 …

10.2 …

10.3 Regulations

10.3.1 Ship communication

10.3.1.1 In order to comply with the functional requirements of paragraph 10.2.1.1 above, communication equipment on board shall have the capabilities for ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communication, taking into account the limitations of communications systems in high latitudes and the anticipated low temperature.

10.3.1.2 In order to comply with the functional requirements of paragraph 10.2.1.2 above, ships intended to provide icebreaking escort shall be equipped with a sound signaling system mounted to face astern to indicate escort and emergency manoeuvres to following ships as described in the International Code of Signals.

10.3.1.3 In order to comply with the functional requirements of paragraph 10.2.1.3 above, two-way on-scene and SAR coordination communication capability in ships shall include:

.1 voice and/or data communications with relevant rescue coordination centres; and

.2 equipment for voice communications with aircraft on 121.5 and 123.1 MHz.

10.3.1.4 In order to comply with the functional requirements of paragraph 10.2.1.4 above, the communication equipment shall provide for two-way voice and data communication with a Telemedical Assistance Service (TMAS).

10.3.2 Survival craft and rescue boat communications capabilities

10.3.2.1 For ships intended to operate in low air temperature, in order to comply with the functional requirements of paragraph 10.2.2.1 above, all rescue boats and lifeboats, whenever released for evacuation, shall:

.1 for distress alerting, carry one device for transmitting ship to shore alerts;

.2 in order to be located, carry one device for transmitting signals for location; and

.3 for on-scene communications, carry one device for transmitting and receiving on-scene communications.

CHAPTER 11 – VOYAGE PLANNING

11.1 …

11.2 …

11.3 Requirements

In order to comply with the functional requirement of paragraph 11.2 above, the master shall consider a route through polar waters, taking into account the following:

.1 the procedures required by the PWOM;

.2 any limitations of the hydrographic information and aids to navigation available;

.3 current information on the extent and type of ice and icebergs in the vicinity of the intended route;

.4 statistical information on ice and temperatures from former years;

.5 places of refuge;

.6 current information and measures to be taken when marine mammals are encountered relating to known areas with densities of marine mammals, including seasonal migration areas;

.7 current information on relevant ships' routing systems, speed recommendations and vessel traffic services relating to known areas with densities of marine mammals, including seasonal migration areas;

.8 national and international designated protected areas along the route; and

.9 operation in areas remote from search and rescue (SAR) capabilities.

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