
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2020 No. 673

**The Merchant Shipping (Safety
of Navigation) Regulations 2020**

PART 2

Safety of navigation requirements

Safety of navigation requirements

5.—(1) A ship to which these Regulations apply must comply with each requirement in Chapter V applicable to that ship and referred to in paragraph (2).

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the requirements referred to in paragraph (1) are those referred to in the following provisions in Chapter V—

- (a) paragraph 3 of regulation 7 (on board plan for cooperation with search and rescue services);
- (b) paragraph 7 of regulation 10 (use of ships' routing systems);
- (c) paragraphs 1 and 7 of regulation 11 (ship reporting systems);
- (d) paragraphs 3 and 4 of regulation 14 (ships' manning);
- (e) regulation 15 (principles relating to bridge design, design and arrangement of navigational systems and equipment and bridge procedures);
- (f) paragraphs 2 and 3 of regulation 17 (electromagnetic compatibility);
- (g) paragraphs 1 to 3 and 7 to 9 of regulation 18 (approval, surveys and performance standards of navigational systems and equipment and voyage data recorder);
- (h) regulation 19 (carriage requirements for shipborne navigational systems and equipment), except for paragraphs 1.3, 2.2.4 and 2.4.4;
- (i) paragraphs 4 to 7 of regulation 19-1 (long-range identification and tracking of ships);
- (j) paragraphs 1 and 2 of regulation 20 (voyage data recorders);
- (k) regulations 21 to 30⁽¹⁾;
- (l) paragraphs 1 and 4 of regulation 31 (danger messages);
- (m) paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5 of regulation 32 (information required in danger messages);
- (n) paragraphs 1, 2 and 6 of regulation 33 (distress situations: obligations and procedures);
- (o) regulation 34 (safe navigation and avoidance of dangerous situations);
- (p) regulation 34-1 (master's discretion); and

⁽¹⁾ Regulations 21 to 30 in Chapter V comprise provisions relating to: the International Code of Signals and IAMSAR Manual (regulation 21); navigation bridge visibility (regulation 22); pilot transfer arrangements (regulation 23); use of heading and/or track control systems (regulation 24); operation of steering gear (regulation 25); steering gear: testing and drills (regulation 26); nautical charts and nautical publications (regulation 27); records of navigational activities and daily reporting (regulation 28); life-saving signals to be used by ships, aircraft or persons in distress (regulation 29); operational limitations (regulation 30).

- (q) regulation 35 (misuse of distress signals).
- (3) The requirements referred to in paragraph (2) are subject to the following exceptions—
- (a) regulations 18, 19 and 20 in Chapter V do not apply to high-speed craft to which the [F1the Merchant Shipping (High Speed Craft) Regulations 2022] apply;
 - (b) in so far as they relate to systems and equipment regulated by regulations 19 and 20, paragraphs 1 to 3 and 7 to 9 of regulation 18 in Chapter V do not apply to ships below 150 gross tons engaged on any voyage;
 - (c) regulation 19 in Chapter V does not apply to—
 - (i) fishing vessels;
 - (ii) pleasure vessels below 150 gross tons engaged on any voyage, except for paragraph 2.1.7 (requirement for radar reflector);
 - (iii) ships which are not sea-going, except for paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.6, 2.1.7 and 2.1.8 (navigational equipment and arrangements);
 - (d) paragraph 2.2.3 of regulation 19 in Chapter V (bridge navigational watch alarm system) does not apply to ships—
 - (i) below 150 gross tons engaged on any voyage;
 - (ii) below 500 gross tons not engaged on international voyages;
 - (e) paragraph 1 of regulation 21 in Chapter V (carriage of International Code of Signals(2)) does not apply to ships below 150 gross tons engaged on any voyage;
 - (f) paragraph 2 of regulation 21 in Chapter V (carriage of IAMSAR Manual(3)) does not apply to—
 - (i) ships below 150 gross tons engaged on any voyage;
 - (ii) ships below 500 gross tons not engaged on international voyages;
 - (iii) fishing vessels;
 - (g) regulation 23 in Chapter V (pilot transfer arrangements) does not apply to—
 - (i) ships below 150 gross tons engaged on any voyage;
 - (ii) ships below 500 gross tons not engaged on international voyages;
 - (iii) fishing vessels;
 - (h) regulations 24 to 27 in Chapter V do not apply to—
 - (i) pleasure vessels below 150 gross tons engaged on any voyage;
 - (ii) ships which are not sea-going; and
 - (i) paragraph 1 of regulation 28 in Chapter V (requirement to keep on board record of navigational activities and incidents) does not apply to any ship below 150 gross tons engaged on any voyage.
- (4) Regulations 24 to 26 in Chapter V (relating to the use of heading or track control systems, and steering gear) are subject to any special rules made by any person empowered by law for roadsteads,

(2) The International Code of Signals may be obtained in copy from the International Maritime Organization of 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR or the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road, Southampton SO15 1EG (telephone 020 3817 2000 and email infoline@mcga.gov.uk).

(3) The IAMSAR Manual (or International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual) may be obtained in copy from the International Maritime Organization of 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR or the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road, Southampton SO15 1EG (telephone 020 3817 2000 and email infoline@mcga.gov.uk).

harbours, rivers, lakes or inland waterways connected with the high seas and navigable by sea-going vessels⁽⁴⁾.

(5) In this regulation—

“Category A, B, C or D waters” means the waters specified as such in Merchant Shipping Notice 1837(M) Amendment 2⁽⁵⁾;

“fishing vessel” means a ship used for catching fish, whales, seals, walrus or other living resources of the sea;

“gross tons” means gross tonnage ascertained under regulations 6 and 12(1) of the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 1997⁽⁶⁾;

“Merchant Shipping Notice” means a notice described as such and issued by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (an executive agency of the Department for Transport) and includes a reference to any document amending or replacing that notice which is considered by the Secretary of State to be relevant from time to time and is specified in a Merchant Shipping Notice;

“pleasure vessel” means—

(a) any vessel which at the time it is being used is—

(i) in the case of a vessel wholly owned by—

(aa) an individual or individuals, used only for the sport or pleasure of the owner or the immediate family or friends of the owner; or

(bb) a body corporate, used only for sport or pleasure and on which the persons on board are employees or officers of the body corporate, or their immediate family or friends; and

(ii) on a voyage or excursion which is one for which the owner does not receive money for or in connection with operating the vessel or carrying any person, other than as a contribution to the direct expenses of the operation of the vessel incurred during the voyage or excursion; or

(b) any vessel wholly owned by or on behalf of a members’ club formed for the purpose of sport or pleasure which, at the time it is being used, is used only for the sport or pleasure of members of that club or their immediate family, and for the use of which any charges levied are paid into club funds and applied for the general use of the club,

where, in the case of any vessel referred to in paragraphs (a) or (b), no other payments are made by or on behalf of users of the vessel, other than by the owner; and in this definition “immediate family” means, in relation to an individual, the spouse or civil partner of the individual, and a relative of the individual or the individual’s spouse or civil partner; and “relative” means brother, sister, ancestor or lineal descendant;

“sea” includes any estuary or arm of the sea but does not include Category A, B, C or D waters;

“sea-going” means operating outside Category A, B, C or D waters.

(4) This requirement parallels the requirement in paragraph (b) of Rule 1 in the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, which gives precedence to special rules made by any person empowered by law for roadsteads, harbours, rivers, lakes or inland waterways connected with the high seas and navigable by sea-going vessels. Paragraph (b) of Rule 1 is implemented by regulation 4(1) of the Merchant Shipping (Distress Signals and Prevention of Collisions) Regulations 1996 (S.I. 1996/75). An example of the special rules is paragraph 10 of the General Directions for Navigation in the Port of London. The General Directions may be obtained in copy from the Port of London Authority, London River House, Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG or found on <http://www.pla.co.uk/assets/generaldirectionsfornavigation2016.pdf>.

(5) Merchant Shipping Notice 1837(M) Amendment 2 is available on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1837-m-amendment-2-categorisation-of-waters>, and in hard copy from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road, Southampton SO15 1EG (telephone 020 3817 2000 and email infoline@mcga.gov.uk).

(6) S.I. 1997/1510, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2020, Section 5. (See end of Document for details)

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Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in [reg. 5\(3\)\(a\)](#) substituted (19.12.2022) by [The Merchant Shipping \(High Speed Craft\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1219\)](#), [reg. 1\(1\)](#), [Sch. para. 27\(a\)](#) (with [reg. 4\(2\)-\(4\)](#))
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Commencement Information

- I1** Reg. 5 in force at 31.7.2020, see [reg. 1\(1\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2020, Section 5.