



## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR SHIPS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS (NMA\_C62.2025. Rev.0)

### (a) DEFINITION:

The following abbreviations stand for:

1. "MARPOL – International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978
2. "OICNW" – Officers in charge of a navigational watch
3. "Polar Code" – The International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters, as amended and corrected by Note Verbale 039 issued 30 July 2021
4. "PWOM" – Polar Water Operation Manual
5. "RO" – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution A.789(19)
6. "SMS" – Safety Management System
7. "SOLAS" – The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended
8. "STCW Code" – Seafarers' Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping Code, 2011 Edition, as amended
9. "STCW Convention" – International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 2011 Edition, as amended

The following terms shall mean:

1. "Administration" – Nauru Maritime Administration
2. "Antarctic Area" – As defined in SOLAS XIV/1.2
3. "Arctic Waters" – As defined in SOLAS XIV/1.3
4. "Category A ship" – A ship designed for operation in polar waters in at least medium, first-year ice, which may include old ice inclusions
5. "Category B ship" – A ship not included in Category A, designed for operation in polar waters in at least thin first-year ice, which may include old ice inclusions
6. "Category C ship" – A ship designed to operate in open water or in ice conditions less severe than those included in Category A or B
7. "Open Water" – A large area of freely navigable water in which sea ice is present in concentrations less than 1/10. No ice of land origin is present (refer to WMO Sea Ice Nomenclature).
8. "Other Waters" – Waters with more than 1/10 ice cover or with any ice of land origin.
9. "Polar Waters" – Arctic waters or the Antarctic area

### (b) PURPOSE:

This circular provides guidance on the implementation of the Polar Code.

### (c) REFERENCES:

1. International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters
2. IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1519, Guidance on methodologies for assessing operational capabilities and limitations in ice, issued 6 June 2016

### (d) APPLICATION:

This circular applies to Nauru-flagged ships intending to operate in polar waters.

**(e) CONTENTS:**

**1. Operational Assessment:**

- 1.1. Ships to which this circular applies shall undergo an operational assessment to identify ship-specific hazards and limitations in polar waters.
- 1.2. The assessment must cover structural capability, ice navigation performance, propulsion and power systems, fire safety, life-saving appliances and communication equipment.
- 1.3. Methodologies in IMO MSC.1/Circ.1519 should be applied.

**2. PWOM**

- 2.1. Every ship to which this circular applies shall carry a PWOM detailing operational limitations, procedures for risk mitigation, crew familiarization and guidance for emergencies.
- 2.2. PWOM must be verified by the RO before the Polar Ship Certificate is issued.

**3. Polar Ship Certificate**

- 3.1. All ships operating in polar waters must hold a valid Polar Ship Certificate issued by a RO.
- 3.2. This certificate shall include a Record of Equipment supplement and harmonized with the Ship's SOLAS certification cycle in accordance with SOLAS Reg. I/14.

**4. Structure, Equipment and Systems**

- 4.1. Ships must meet structural and equipment requirements applicable to their Polar Ship Category (A, B, or C).
- 4.2. This includes ice strengthening, heating of essential systems, enclosed lifeboats, survival craft with extended endurance, navigational equipment suitable for low visibility, and redundancy of propulsion and power systems, where required.

**5. Life-Saving Appliances & Fire Safety**

- 5.1. Survival craft, PPE, and communication systems must remain effective at low temperatures.
- 5.2. Enclosed lifeboats with sufficient insulation, anti-exposure suits, and fire-fighting systems suitable for cold conditions are mandatory.

**6. Pollution Prevention**

- 6.1. Ships must comply with MARPOL Annexes I, II, IV, and V restrictions in polar waters.
- 6.2. Discharges of oil, noxious liquid substances, sewage, and garbage are prohibited except as permitted by the Polar Code.
- 6.3. Shipboard management plans and records (Oil Record Book, Garbage Record Book, SOPEP/SMPEP) must reflect polar operations.

## 7. Training of Personnel

- 7.1. While operating in Polar Waters – Masters, Chief Mates, and OICNW shall be qualified in accordance with chapter V of the STCW Convention and the STCW Code, as amended, as follows:

<b>Ice Conditions</b>	<b>Tankers</b>	<b>Passenger Ships</b>	<b>Others</b>
Ice Free	Not applicable		
Open Waters	Basic training for Master, Chief Mate, and OICNW.		Not applicable
Other Waters	Advanced training for Master & Chief Mate, and Basic training for OICNW.		

- 7.2. All crew must receive familiarization training on PWOM procedures.
- 7.3. Person(s) other than the Master, Chief Mate or OICNW may be used to satisfy the requirements for training as required by sub-para 7.1. This arrangement does not relieve the Master or OICNW from their duties and obligations for the safety of the vessel.
- 7.4. Every crew member shall be made familiar with the procedures and equipment contained or referenced in the PWOM relevant to their assigned duties.