The Polar Code
Ships in Cold Water – Arctic Issues Examined
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Overview

• **Background and main features**

• **Special focus:**
  - Operational limitations
  - Environmental protection

• **Conclusions**
IMO and the Arctic: The adequacy of the existing rules and standards

IMO conventions and guidelines

2009: Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA)

2010-2014: From hazard matrix to negotiating text to a draft Polar Code

2014-?: Consideration and adoption by the two relevant committees (MSC and MEPC)

2016: Enter into force?
Draft International Code for Ships operating in Polar Waters

Preamble

Introduction

Part I-A Safety Measures
- General
- Polar Water Operational Manual
- Ship structure
- Stability and subdivision
- Watertight and weathertight integrity
- Machinery installations
- Fire safety/protection
- Life-saving appliances and arrangements

- Safety of navigation
- Communication
- Voyage planning
- Crewing/manning/training

Part I-B Additional guidance

Part II-A Pollution Prevention measures
- Prevention of oil pollution
- Prevention of pollution from noxious liquid substances
- Prevention of pollution by sewage from ships
- Pollution by garbage

Part II- B Additional guidance

Appendix: Polar Ship Certificate
Legal status and application

Legal status:
- Mandatory through amendments of SOLAS 74 and MARPOL 73/78 annexes
- Amendments through use of reference or “inclusion”?

Application:
- Arctic waters and Antarctic Area
- Ships operating in polar waters
Normative design

- **Risk-based approach:**
  - Design of the Polar Code
  - Operational limitations

- **Goal-based approach:**
  - Goals, functional requirements and prescriptive rules
  - Provides flexibility
  - Legal status and application
  - Verification of compliance
How to mitigate the risks?
Operational limitations

Formal requirements:
- Polar Ship Certificate
- Polar Waters Operational Manual

Sources of risks/hazards:
- Sea ice
- Low temperatures
- Adequate and competent crew

Operating within the limitations
Polar Code and environmental protection

Effects of shipping on the polar marine environment

Areas of possible regulations:
- Ban on transport of MARPOL Annex I and II cargoes
- Operational discharge of oil
- Sewage and grey water, garbage
- Emissions to air (incl. black carbon)
- Others (e.g. noise, ship strikes, ballast water)

The Polar Code - Pollution prevention measures:
- **Oil pollution:** Any discharge into the sea of oil and oily mixtures is prohibited
- Pollution from **noxious liquid substances:** Any discharge is prohibited
- Pollution from **sewage:** Additional requirements on distance from ice and ban from new vessels
- Pollution from **garbage:** Additional restrictions on discharge of food waste
Conclusions

• Polar Code in operation:
  ▪ Enter into force
  ▪ National implementation

• The importance of its context, legal as non-legal:
  • Global (other IMO regulations)
  • Regional cooperation (e.g. SAR, port state)
  • Coastal State regulations and enforcement
  • Still remote, ice-covered, cold