OUTLOOK ALL SERVICE LINES

Regulatory outlook 2026 to 2032: safety equipment rules in force, adopted and in preparation

One list per horizon, so the technical and budget plans for the coming years start from the same page.

ISSUED
September 2026

APPLIES TO
Fire-fighting, life-saving, lifting and pilot transfer equipment; SOLAS ships

REFERENCE
MSC 108, MSC 110, MSC 111 · SSE 12 · Reg. (EU) 2025/1988

AT A GLANCE

- In force since 1 January 2026: the SOLAS PFOS prohibition, the lifting appliances regulation, the LSA Code amendments for new equipment and the ventilation item in the annual lifeboat examination.
- Adopted: new pilot transfer arrangements from 2028, and a release test arrangement for free-fall lifeboats installed from 2031.
- In preparation at IMO: CO2 cylinder testing clarification, thermal imagers and water mist lances for container ships, a possible wider PFAS restriction, lifeboat ventilation and self-righting liferafts.
- Items in preparation can still change; status as at September 2026.

01 In force now

ITEM	REQUIREMENT	APPLIES	BULLETIN
PFOS in foam	SOLAS II-2/10.11: no extinguishing media containing PFOS above 10 mg/kg	Existing ships by first survey on or after 1 Jan 2026	TB-2026-01
Lifting appliances	SOLAS II-1/3-13: load test, annual thorough examination, SWL marking, register	Existing appliances by first renewal survey on or after 1 Jan 2026	TB-2026-03
LSA Code	Lifejacket performance, single fall hooks, lowering speed	Appliances installed from 1 Jan 2026	TB-2026-05
Lifeboat ventilation	MSC.559(108): ventilation added to the annual thorough examination	From 1 Jan 2026	TB-2026-07
Enclosed space entry	MSC.581(110): CO2 added to the atmosphere tested before entry	IMO recommendation	TB-2026-02

02 Adopted, coming into force

ITEM	REQUIREMENT	APPLIES	BULLETIN
Pilot transfer	SOLAS V/23 and performance standards: ladder service life, spare ladder, no onboard step repair, no mechanical hoists	New installations 1 Jan 2028; existing, first survey on or after 1 Jan 2029	TB-2026-04
Free-fall lifeboats	Type-approved arrangement to test the release system without launching, added to the annual examination	In force 1 Jan 2028; applies to installations from 1 Jan 2031	TB-2026-07
EU PFAS in foam	REACH Annex XVII entry 82: 1 mg/L sum of PFAS in fire-fighting foams	Core limit from 23 Oct 2030, earlier for some uses	TB-2026-01

03 In preparation at IMO

ITEM	WORK	STAGE	BULLETIN
CO2 systems	Clarified hydrostatic testing of high-pressure cylinders, anniversary by manufacture date, functional test after modification	To MSC 112, December 2026	TB-2026-06
Container ships	Portable infrared thermal imagers and water mist lances	Planned 1 Jan 2032	
Gas systems	Gaskets excluded from the 925 °C melting point requirement (FSS Code chapter 5)	Planned 1 Jan 2032	
PFAS beyond PFOS	Possible wider prohibition of fluorinated substances in foam	Correspondence group to SSE 13, March 2027	
Lifeboat ventilation	Extension to partly enclosed lifeboats, CO2 criterion of 5,000 ppm	Correspondence group to SSE 13	
Liferafts	Self-righting or canopied reversible liferafts extended to new ships	Correspondence group to SSE 13	
MSC.402(96)	Definitions of make, type, model and series for provider authorisation	Correspondence group to SSE 13	TB-2026-07

04 The horizon at a glance

YEAR	WHAT ARRIVES
2026	PFOS · Lifting appliances · LSA Code · Lifeboat ventilation
2027	SSE 13: PFAS, lifeboat ventilation, liferafts · CO2 guidelines expected
2028	Pilot transfer, new installations
2029	Pilot transfer, existing SOLAS ships
2030	EU PFAS limit in foams · Pilot transfer, other ships
2031	Free-fall lifeboats installed from this date: release test arrangement
2032	Container ship thermal imagers and water mist lances · Gas system gaskets

Adopted items have fixed dates. Items in preparation show the stage reached in September 2026 and the planned entry into force where IMO has set one. Dates can move until the text is adopted.

WHAT TO DO NOW

- Check the deadlines in section 1 against each ship's survey dates.
- Put the 2028 and 2029 items into the budget for those years.
- Watch the draft items; we issue a bulletin when each one is final.

HOW OZ MARITIME CAN HELP

- A fleet review mapping every due date across all service lines
- Technical bulletins as each item is adopted, in the same format
- Service and supply for each item in one attendance where possible

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SOURCES

- IMO Resolutions MSC.532(107), MSC.554(108), MSC.559(108), MSC.572(110), MSC.576(110), MSC.581(110)
- MSC 111 summaries by ClassNK, IRClass and Lloyd's Register
- DNV, IMO SSE 12 summary, March 2026
- Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1988
- OZ Maritime Technical Bulletins TB-2026-01 to TB-2026-07

This bulletin summarises the requirements as we read them on the date of issue. It is general technical information, not legal advice, and does not replace the text of the instruments, your flag Administration's notices, your classification society's rules or the equipment maker's instructions, which take precedence for your vessel. Check your flag, not a general claim.