

**GIBRALTAR MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**  
(Ministry of Maritime Affairs)



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**Shipping Guidance Notice – 024**

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To: Ship Owners, Operators, Masters, Officers and Classification Societies

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**Amendments to the ISM Code**

1. The amendments to the ISM Code (MSC Resolution 273(85)) came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010.
2. Operators of Gibraltar registered ships are required to implement these amendments forthwith and in particular to:
  - a. Assess all identified risks to its ships, personnel and the environment and establish appropriate safeguards.
  - b. Establish procedures, plans and instructions, including checklists as appropriate, for key shipboard operations concerning the safety of the personnel, ship and protection of the environment. The various tasks should be defined and assigned to qualified personnel.
  - c. Identify potential emergency shipboard situations, and establish procedures to respond to them.
  - d. Establish procedures for the implementation of corrective action, including measures intended to prevent recurrence.
  - e. Carry out internal safety audits on board and ashore at intervals not exceeding twelve months to verify whether safety and pollution-prevention activities comply with the safety management system. In exceptional circumstances, this interval may be exceeded by not more than three months.
3. The need to carry out risk assessments as part of the safety management activities is now explicit, rather than implied. The original wording stopped short of requiring companies to carry out a formal risk assessment.
4. The "Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen" gives guidance on carrying out risk assessments. Many risk assessment models are already available and companies are free to choose any model which suits them.

5. Audits carried out by the GMA or Recognized Organisations when authorized by the GMA will be looking for evidence, which could be in the form of a written risk assessment, that the company has taken these amendments into account.
6. More detailed information is available in MGN 1826 (M) International Safety Management (ISM) Code Amendments attached.

Alan Cubbin  
Maritime Administrator

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