

Code of Safety for SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS

1984 Edition

Supplement

January 2020

Amendments to the 1984 edition of the Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships (SPS Code) were adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) at its 100th and 101st sessions by resolutions MSC.453(100) and MSC.464(101) on 7 December 2018 and 14 June 2019, respectively. This supplement presents, in chronological order of their adoption, the aforementioned amendments, which enter into force before the next edition of the Code is published.

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Resolution MSC.453(100)

adopted on 7 December 2018

Chapter 1 – General

1.2 Application

1 *The existing text of section 1.2 is amended to read as follows:*

“Except as provided in 8.3, the Code applies to every new special purpose ship of not less than 500 gross tonnage. The Administration may also apply these provisions as far as reasonable and practicable to special purpose ships of less than 500 gross tonnage.”

1.3 Definitions

2 *The existing paragraph 1.3.4 is amended to read as follows:*

“1.3.4 Except as provided in 8.3, “special purpose ship” means a mechanically self-propelled ship which, by reason of its function, carries on board more than 12 special personnel including passengers. Special purpose ships to which this Code applies include the following types:

- .1 ships engaged in research, expeditions and survey;
- .2 ships for training of marine personnel;
- .3 whale and fish factory ships not engaged in catching;
- .4 ships processing other living resources of the sea, not engaged in catching; and
- .5 other ships with design features and modes of operation similar to ships referred to in .1 to .4 which in the opinion of the Administration may be referred to this group.”

Chapter 8 – Life-saving appliances

3 The existing chapter 8 is replaced by the following:

“Chapter 8 – Life-saving appliances*

8.1 The requirements of chapter III of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended, should be applied with the specifications given hereunder.

8.2 A special purpose ship carrying more than 50 special personnel should comply with the requirements contained in chapter III of the 1974 SOLAS Convention for passenger ships engaged in international voyages which are not short international voyages.

8.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of 8.2, sail training ships, whether mechanically self-propelled or not and irrespective of their gross tonnage, carrying more than 50 special personnel (trainees), may in lieu of meeting the requirements of regulations 20.1.1, 20.1.2 or 20.1.3 of chapter III of the 1974 SOLAS Convention:

- .1 comply with the requirements of regulation 20.1.5 of chapter III of the 1974 SOLAS Convention including the provision of at least one rescue boat in accordance with regulation 20.2.2 of chapter III; and
- .2 in addition, carry one immersion suit complying with regulation 33 of chapter III of the 1974 SOLAS Convention for each person on board, unless:
 - .1 davits are provided for launching the liferafts; or
 - .2 the ship is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates where, in the opinion of the Administration, immersion suits are unnecessary.

8.4 A special purpose ship carrying not more than 50 special personnel should comply with the requirements contained in chapter III of the 1974 SOLAS Convention for cargo ships other than tankers. Such ships may, however, carry life-saving appliances in accordance with 8.2, if they comply with the subdivision requirements for ships carrying more than 50 special personnel.

8.5 Regulations 2, 18.3.3, 20.1.2, 20.1.3, 26.1.6, 26.1.7, 45 and 46 of chapter III of the 1974 SOLAS Convention are not applicable to special purpose ships.

* All references in this chapter are references to regulations of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended in 1983.

8.6 Where in chapter III of the 1974 SOLAS Convention the term “passenger” is used, it should be read to mean “special personnel” for the purpose of this Code.”

Chapter 9 – Radiocommunications

4 *The text of the existing chapter 9 is replaced by the following:*

“Special purpose ships should comply with the provisions of chapter IV of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended.”

Appendix

5 *The existing “Form of Safety Certificate for Special Purpose Ships” is replaced by the following revised form, which has been supplemented by a “Record of Equipment for Special Purpose Ship Safety Certificate (Form SPS)”.*

“FORM OF SAFETY CERTIFICATE FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS

SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIP SAFETY CERTIFICATE

This Certificate should be supplemented by a Record of Equipment (Form SPS)

(Official seal)

(State)

Issued in compliance with the provisions of the
CODE OF SAFETY FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS
under the authority of the Government of

.....
(name of the State)

by

.....
(person or organization authorized)

Particulars of ship*

Name of ship

Distinctive number or letters

Port of registry

Gross tonnage

Sea areas in which ship is certificated
to operate (SOLAS regulation IV/2)

IMO number[†]

Ship's special purpose

Date on which keel was laid or ship was of a similar
stage of construction or, where applicable, date on
which work for a conversion or an alteration or
modification of a major character was commenced

* Alternatively, the particulars of the ship may be placed horizontally in boxes.

† Refer to the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme, adopted by the Organization by resolution A.1117(30).

THIS IS TO CERTIFY:

1 That the ship has been surveyed in accordance with the requirements of regulation 1.6 of the Code.

2 That the survey showed that:

2.1 the ship complied with the provisions of the Code as regards:

- .1 the structure, main and auxiliary machinery, boilers and other pressure vessels; and
- .2 the watertight subdivision arrangements and details;

2.2 the ship complied with the provisions of the Code as regards structural fire protection, fire safety systems and appliances, and fire control plans;

2.3 the life-saving appliances and the equipment of the lifeboats, liferafts and rescue boats were provided in accordance with the provisions of the Code;

2.4 the ship was provided with a line-throwing appliance and radio installations used in life-saving appliances in accordance with the provisions of the Code;

2.5 the ship complied with the provisions of the Code as regards radio installations;

2.6 the functioning of the radio installations used in life-saving appliances complied with the provisions of the Code;

2.7 the ship complied with the provisions of the Code as regards shipborne navigational equipment, means of embarkation for pilots and nautical publications;

2.8 the ship was provided with lights, shapes and means of making sound signals and distress signals, in accordance with the provisions of the Code and the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions of Sea in force; and

2.9 in all other respects the ship complied with the relevant provisions of the Code.

3 That an Exemption Certificate has/has not* been issued.

4 That the ship has/has not* been provided with certificates issued under the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended.

This certificate is valid until

* Delete as appropriate.

Completion date of the survey on which this certificate is based:

.....
(dd/mm/yyyy)

Issued at

.....
(Place of issue of certificate)

.....
(Date of issue)

.....
(Signature of authorized official
issuing the certificate)

(Seal or stamp of the issuing Authority, as appropriate)

**ENDORSEMENT FOR ANNUAL AND PERIODICAL SURVEYS RELATING TO
LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT REFERRED TO
IN SECTIONS 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8 AND 2.9
OF THIS CERTIFICATE**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that, at a survey required by 1.6 of the Code, the ship was found to comply with the relevant provisions of the Code.

Annual survey: Signed
(Signature of authorized official)

Place

Date

(Seal or stamp of the Authority, as appropriate)

Annual/periodical* survey: Signed
(Signature of authorized official)

Place

Date

(Seal or stamp of the Authority, as appropriate)

Annual/periodical* survey: Signed
(Signature of authorized official)

Place

Date

(Seal or stamp of the Authority, as appropriate)

Annual survey: Signed
(Signature of authorized official)

Place

Date

(Seal or stamp of the Authority, as appropriate)

* Delete as appropriate.

ENDORSEMENT FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE CERTIFICATE

The ship complies with the relevant provisions of the Code and this Certificate should, in accordance with 1.7.3, be accepted as valid until.....

Signed
(Signature of authorized official)

Place

Date

(Seal or stamp of the Authority, as appropriate)

ANNEX

**RECORD OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIP
SAFETY CERTIFICATE (FORM SPS)**

This Record should be permanently attached to the
Special Purpose Ship Safety Certificate.

**RECORD OF EQUIPMENT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE
CODE OF SAFETY FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS**

1 *Particulars of ship*

Name of ship

Distinctive number or letters

Number of persons on board (including passengers)
for which certified

Minimum number of persons on board with required
qualifications to operate the radio installations

2 *Details of life-saving appliances*

1	Total number of persons for which life-saving appliances are provided	.....
		Port side	Starboard side
2	Total number of lifeboats	.....	.....
2.1	Total number of persons accommodated by them	.....	.....
2.2	Number of partially enclosed lifeboats (SOLAS regulation III/42)	.....	.....
2.3	Number of self-righting partially enclosed lifeboats (SOLAS regulation III/43)	.....	.....
2.4	Number of totally enclosed lifeboats (SOLAS regulation III/44)	.....	.....
2.5	Other lifeboats	.....	.....
2.5.1	Number	.....	.....
2.5.2	Type	.....	.....

3	Number of motor lifeboats (included in the total lifeboats shown above)	.....	.....
3.1	Number of lifeboats fitted with searchlights	.....	.....
4	Number of rescue boats	.....	.....
4.1	Number of boats which are included in the total lifeboats shown above	.....	.....
5	Liferafts	.....	.....
5.1	Those for which approved launching appliances are required	.....	.....
5.1.1	Number of liferafts	.....	.....
5.1.2	Number of persons accommodated by them	.....	.....
5.2	Those for which approved launching appliances are not required	.....	.....
5.2.1	Number of liferafts	.....	.....
5.2.2	Number of persons accommodated by them	.....	.....
6	Buoyant apparatus	.....	.....
6.1	Number of apparatus	.....	.....
6.2	Number of persons capable of being supported	.....	.....
7	Number of lifebuoys	.....	.....
8	Number of lifejackets	.....	.....
9	Immersion suits	.....	.....
9.1	Total number	.....	.....
9.2	Number of suits complying with the requirements for lifejackets	.....	.....
10	Number of thermal protective aids*	.....	.....
11	Radio installations used in life-saving appliances	.....	.....
11.1	Number of radar transponders	.....	.....
11.2	Number of two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus	.....	.....

* Excluding those required by SOLAS regulations III/38.5.1.24, III/41.8.31 and III/47.2.2.13.

3 Details of radio facilities

Item	Actual provision
1 Primary systems
1.1 VHF radio installation
1.1.1 DSC encoder
1.1.2 DSC watch receiver
1.1.3 Radiotelephony
1.2 MF radio installation
1.2.1 DSC encoder
1.2.2 DSC watch receiver
1.2.3 Radiotelephony
1.3 MF/HF radio installation
1.3.1 DSC encoder
1.3.2 DSC watch receiver
1.3.3 Radiotelephony
1.3.4 Direct-printing radiotelegraphy
1.4 Ship earth station providing a recognized mobile satellite service
2 Secondary means of alerting
3 Facilities for reception of maritime safety information
3.1 NAVTEX receiver
3.2 EGC receiver
3.3 HF direct-printing radiotelegraph receiver
4 Satellite EPIRB
4.1 COSPAS-SARSAT
5 VHF EPIRB
6 Ship's radar transponder

- 4 *Methods used to ensure availability of radio facilities (SOLAS regulations IV/15.6 and 15.7)*
- 4.1 Duplication of equipment
- 4.2. Shore-based maintenance
- 4.3. At-sea maintenance capability
- 5 *Special purpose ships constructed before 1 February 1995 which do not comply with all the applicable requirements of chapter IV of the SOLAS Convention, as amended**

	Requirements of regulations	Actual provision
Hours of listening by operator
Number of operators
Whether auto alarm fitted
Whether main installation fitted
Whether reserve installation fitted
Whether main and reserve transmitters electrically separated or combined

- 6 *Special purpose ships constructed before 1 February 1992 which do not comply with the applicable requirements of chapter III of the SOLAS Convention, as amended†*

	Actual provision
Radiotelegraph installation for lifeboat
Portable radio apparatus for survival craft
Survival craft EPIRB (121.5 MHz and 243.0 MHz)
Two-way radiotelephone apparatus

* This section need not be reproduced on the record attached to certificates issued after 1 February 1999.

† This section need not be reproduced on the record attached to certificates issued after 1 February 1995.

Resolution MSC.453(100)

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that this Record is correct in all respects.

Issued at

.....

(Place of issue of the Record)

.....

(Date of issue)

.....

*(Signature of authorized official
issuing the Record)*

(Seal or stamp of the issuing Authority, as appropriate)".

Resolution MSC.464(101)

adopted on 14 June 2019

Appendix

FORM OF SAFETY CERTIFICATE FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS

Annex

RECORD OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIP SAFETY CERTIFICATE (FORM SPS)

- 1 *Particulars of ship*
- 2 *The existing entry "Number of persons on board (including passengers) for which certified" is replaced by the following:*
 - "Number of special personnel on board (including passengers) for which certified".
- 2 *Details of life-saving appliances*
- 3 *In the table, existing entries in 11.1 and 11.2 are modified by the following:*
 - "11.1 Number of radar transponders (SART)
 - 11.2 AIS search and rescue transmitters (AIS-SART)
 - 11.3 Number of two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus".
- 3 *Details of radio facilities*
- 4 *In the table, entry 6 is replaced by the following:*
 - "6 Ship's search and rescue locating device
 - 6.1 Radar search and rescue transponder (SART)
 - 6.2 AIS search and rescue transmitters (AIS-SART)".

