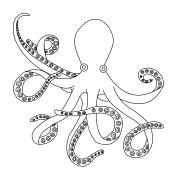
International Maritime Organization instruments and links to resolutions & maritime facts



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# **IMO Instruments**

One of the main aims of IMO is to ensure co-operation among maritime governments of the world. It also uses a number of instruments to implement and maintain the highest standards in areas of maritime safety, prevention of marine pollution, and shipping navigation and trade. The 5 important instruments of IMO are:

- Conventions
- Protocols
- Amendments
- Recommendations, codes, and guidelines
- Resolutions

#### 1 - Conventions

A convention is a written agreement with several parts. Conventions form a major part of maritime affairs governed by the IMO. Some of the major conventions by IMO are Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974 convention and International convention for prevention of pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

It is to note that conventions generally have several sub-parts, which would describe in details various aspects of the subject defined by that particular convention. For e.g. MARPOL convention has six parts which are known as annexes. Each of this annexe deals with different aspect of marine pollution.

It is also possible that details given within a convention are put under an associated code, which provides further technical details of that aspect; for e.g. the Life saving appliances (LSA) code gives details for minimum requirements for safety equipment used on board ships.

Each member state must accept the details mentioned in conventions put forth by the IMO and agree to international supervision required under such conventions.

Thus, conventions act as a treaty between the IMO and member states. It is imperative that every member state abides by the rules and regulations put forth by the IMO.

#### 2 - Protocols

Protocol is an important instrument used by the IMO to introduce changes to conventions, which are already adopted but not yet entered into force.

For e.g. SOLAS convention 1973 was amended twice using protocols – by 1978 SOLAS protocol which entered into force in 1st May 1981 and by 1988 SOLAS protocol which entered into force on 3rd Feb 2000. Both the protocols are now known as SOLAS 74/78 and SOLAS 74/88.

### 3 - Amendments

As mentioned above, amendments are major changes that are brought into action using protocols. Amendments are the reforms that are needed in a convention and are backed by the protocols.

For e.g. Because of several accidents at sea, there was an urgent need to change the MARPOL 1973 convention in 1970s. These changes or amendments were brought into action by the combined convention-protocol instrument called MARPOL 73/78 on 2nd October 1983.

#### 4 - Recommendations, codes, and guidelines

Recommendations are mainly guidelines which are not legally accepted. They are not formal documents like convention or protocol but are a list of recommended practices that are closely linked to conventions. For e.g. timber deck cargo code Recommendations can also be guidelines which are waiting to be accepted by the IMO.

However, it is to note that though recommendations are not legally binding, some governments might apply them in whole or in part.

Codes and guidelines can be both mandatory and non mandatory. Codes such as ISM and IBC codes are mandatory and are a part of a parent convention or protocol

### 5 - Resolutions

Resolutions are the finalized documents which are accepted by the IMO or any of the main body under IMO. They generally result from an agreement on a recommendation or amendment.

Resolution passed by the assembly is denoted in a peculiar manner.

- For e.g. Resolution A. 586 (XIV)
- Where, A = assembly; 586 = serial number of resolution; and XIV = Made by the 14th session of the assembly • E.g. 2: MEPC. 54 (32)
- Where, MEPC = Marine environment protection committee; 54 = serial number; 32 = 32nd session of the committee

# **IMO resolutions**

IMO Resolutions are adopted by the key organs and committees of the Organization.

Resolutions are first issued within the official IMO meeting reports and documents relating to the relevant committee or organ.

This document provide direct links to the documents published by these committees.

Assembly ( A )		
Function	The Assembly is IMO's the highest governing body. It is responsible for approving the work programme and budget; and determining financial arrangements and electing the IMO Council. The Assembly consists of all IMO Member States and meets once every two years.	
Link to resolutions	https://www.imo.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/Pages/Assembly.aspx	
	Council (C)	
Function	The Council is the executive organ of IMO and is responsible, under the Assembly, for supervising the work of th Organization. The Council is made up of 40 Member States, elected by the Assembly for two-year terms.	
Link to resolutions	https://www.imo.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/Pages/Council-C-Default.aspx	
	Facilitation Committee (FAL)	
Function	The Facilitation Committee (FAL) deals with matters related to the facilitation of international maritime traffic, including the arrival, stay and departure of ships, persons and cargo from ports. The Committee also addresses electronic business, including the single window concept, and aims to ensure that the right balance is struck between regulation and the facilitation of international maritime trade.	
Link to resolutions	https://www.imo.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/Pages/FAL.aspx	
	Legal Committee ( LEG )	
Function	The Legal Committee (LEG) deals with any legal matters within IMO's scope. This includes liability and compensation issues related to the operation of ships, including damage, pollution, passenger claims, and wreck removal. The Committee also addresses seafarer matters, including the fair treatment of seafarers, and issues concerning unlawful activities at sea which affect the safety of navigation.	
Link to resolutions	https://www.imo.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/Pages/LEG.aspx	
	London Convention (LDC,LC) and London Protocol (LP)	
Description	The "Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972", the "London Convention" for short, is one of the first global conventions to protect the marine environment from human activities and has been in force since 1975. Its objective is to promote the effective control of all sources of marine pollution and to take all practicable steps to prevent pollution of the sea by dumping of wastes and other matter.	
Link to resolutions	https://www.imo.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/Pages/LDC-LC-LP.aspx	
	Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)	
Function	he Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) addresses environmental issues under IMO's remit. This includes the control and prevention of ship-source pollution covered by the MARPOL treaty, including oil, chemicals carried in bulk, sewage, garbage and emissions from ships, including air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. Other matters covered include ballast water management, anti-fouling systems, ship recycling, pollutio preparedness and response, and identification of special areas and particularly sensitive sea areas.	

Maritime Safety Committee (MSC)		
Function	The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) deals with all matters related to maritime safety and maritime security which fall within the scope of IMO, covering both passenger ships and all kinds of cargo ships. This includes updating the SOLAS Convention and related codes, such as those covering dangerous goods, life-saving appliances and fire safety systems. The MSC also deals with human element issues, including amendments to the STCW Convention on training and certification of seafarers. The MSC has a wide range of issues on its current agenda, including goal-based standards, autonomous vessels, piracy and armed robbery against ships, cyber security, e-navigation and the modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).	
Link to resolutions	https://www.imo.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/Pages/MSC.aspx	
Technical Cooperation Committee (TC)		
Function	The Technical Cooperation Committee (TC) oversees IMO's capacity-building programme and the implementation of technical cooperation projects for which the Organization acts as the executing or cooperating agency, ensuring that IMO supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	
Link to resolutions	https://www.imo.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/Pages/TC.aspx	

## Maritime facts and figures

The Research Guide Maritime Facts and Figures (<u>https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4761068</u>) is intended to facilitate research for maritime and shipping facts and figures available on the Internet.

This guide provides links to a selection of resources for statistical and factual information on maritime and shipping affairs. It does not aim to be exhaustive. Current and archival maritime statistics are also available in text books and reports in libraries and institutions which support research in maritime and shipping subjects and from commercial providers of shipping intelligence data. Relevant information may also be available from national maritime authorities; industry and professional associations; research and academic institutions; and commercial shipping intelligence providers.

Торіс	Link to IMO website
Fleet	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4655182
Casualties	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4655524
IMO	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4655523
Industry	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4655529
Maritime security	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4923712
Piracy	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4655525
Ports	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4655528
National / Regional	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4655530
Research	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4655531
Seafarers	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4655526
Ship recycling	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4744890
Terminology	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4764783
Women in maritime	https://imo.libguides.com/c.php?g=659460&p=4717027