



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 237 of 07th December 2014

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	What Polar Code means for ship safety
Reference:	Polar Code

[The International Code for ships operating in Polar Water was adopted on November 2014 by the IMO MSC 94.](#)

The Polar Code highlights the potential hazards of operating in polar regions, including ice, remoteness and rapidly changing and severe weather conditions, and provides goals and functional requirements in relation to ship design, construction, equipment, operations, training, and search and rescue, relevant to ships operating in Arctic and Antarctic waters.

IMO has created an Infographic to explain what the Polar Code means for ship safety highlighting the following key issues for the proper equipment, design & construction, operation & manning for ships operating in Polar Waters:

Equipment

Windows on Bridge

Means to clear melted ice, freezing rain, snow, mist, spray and condensation

Lifeboats

All lifeboats to be partially or totally enclosed type

Clothing I

Adequate thermal protection for all persons on board

Clothing II

On passenger ships, an immersion suit or a thermal protective aid for each person on board

Ice Removal

Special equipment for ice removal: such as electrical and pneumatic devices, special tools such as axes or wooden clubs

Fire Safety

Extinguishing equipment able to operable in cold temperatures; protect from ice; suitable for persons wearing bulky and cumbersome cold weather gear

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Design & Construction

Ship Categories

Three categories of ship which may operate in Polar Waters, based on:

- medium first- year ice
- thin first- year ice
- open waters/ ice conditions less severe than A and B

Intact Stability

Sufficient stability in intact condition when subject to ice accretion and the stability calculations must take into account the icing allowance

Materials

Ships intended to operate in low air temperature must be constructed with materials suitable for operation at the ships polar service temperature

Structure

In ice strengthened ships, the structure of the ship must be able to resist both global and local structural loads

Operations & Manning

Navigation

Receive information about ice conditions

Certificate & Manual

Required to have on board a Polar Ship Certificate and the ship's Polar Water Operational Manual

Training

Masters, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch must have completed appropriate basic training (for open-water operations) and advanced training for other waters, including ice)

REFERENCES:

- Polar Code

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,

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