



Antigua and Barbuda
Maritime Administration

SOLAS Circular
No. 2019 - 001
Rev 2
26 April 2021

**SUBJECT: International code for ships operating in Polar waters (POLAR CODE):
Polar Water Operations Manual (PWOM)**

REFERENCE:

- a) *IMO Resolution MSC.385(94): International code for ships operating in polar waters (POLAR CODE)*
- b) *MEPC 68/21/Add.1: Report of the marine environment protection committee on its sixty-eighth session.*
- c) *MSC.1/Circ. 1612: Guidance for navigation and communication equipment intended for use on ships operating in polar waters.*
- d) *IMO Resolution A.1024(26): Guidelines for ships operating in polar waters.*
- e) <https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/polar/Pages/polar-default.aspx>

TO: Ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships, and recognized organizations.

1. PURPOSE

This Circular provides information and binding direction on the application of procedures relating to polar water operations statutory certification, in particular the approval of the so called "Polar Water Operations Manual" (PWOM).

2. APPLICATION

This Circular applies to all Antigua and Barbuda flagged Ships.

3. BACKGROUND

The International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), 2014, as amended, by Chapter II requires all vessels subject to the Code carrying a "Polar Water Operational Manual" (PWOM) in accordance with the provisions specified in this Chapter.

The manual may either be a stand-alone document or integrated in the ship's and/or company's ISM-System. The manual is subject to approval by the relevant RO issuing Polar Water statutory certification.

In addition, there is specific guidance for navigation and communication equipment intended for use on ships operating in polar waters and this is detailed in the Annex of MSC.1/Circ.1612.

OBLIGATIONS AND GUIDANCE/RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The PWOM may be drafted by any party as deemed qualified by the vessel's management, whether internally or by third-party providers such as maritime consultancies or recognized organizations.

2. If the manual forms an integral part of the vessel's and company's ISM system, then it is subject to approval by the recognized organization issuing the DoC. If approved as such, the recognized organization issuing the vessels Polar Water statutory certification, i.e., the vessel's class, must then accept it as fulfilling the criteria for Polar Code's requirements respectively criteria.
3. If the manual is a standalone document, it is subject to approval by the organization issuing the Polar Water statutory certification, i.e., the vessels class.
4. ADOMS' [Recognized Organizations](#) (ROs) as listed on our website may provide additional information.

Issued by

Antigua and Barbuda
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