Foreword

Introduction

1 The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, currently in force, was adopted on 1 November 1974 by the International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, which was convened by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and entered into force on 25 May 1980. It has since been amended twice by means of protocols:

.1 by the Protocol adopted on 17 February 1978 by the International Conference on Tanker Safety and Pollution Prevention (1978 SOLAS Protocol), which entered into force on 1 May 1981; and


2 In addition, the 1974 SOLAS Convention has been amended by means of resolutions adopted either by IMO’s Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) in its expanded form specified in SOLAS article VIII or by Conferences of SOLAS Contracting Governments, also specified in article VIII, as follows:

.1 by the 1981 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.1(XLV) and entered into force on 1 September 1984;

.2 by the 1983 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.6(48) and entered into force on 1 July 1986;

.3 by the April 1988 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.11(55) and entered into force on 22 October 1989;

.4 by the October 1988 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.12(56) and entered into force on 29 April 1990;

.5 by the November 1988 amendments, which were adopted by resolution 1 of the Conference of Contracting Governments to SOLAS, 1974, on the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System and entered into force on 1 February 1992;

.6 by the 1989 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.13(57) and entered into force on 1 February 1992;

.7 by the 1990 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.19(58) and entered into force on 1 February 1992;

.8 by the 1991 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.22(59) and entered into force on 1 January 1994;

.9 by the April 1992 amendments, which were adopted by resolutions MSC.24(60) and MSC.26(60) and entered into force on 1 October 1994;

.10 by the December 1992 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.27(61) and entered into force on 1 October 1994;

.11 by the May 1994 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.31(63) and entered into force on 1 January 1996 (annex 1) and on 1 July 1998 (annex 2);

.12 by the May 1994 amendments, which were adopted by resolution 1 of the Conference of Contracting Governments to SOLAS, 1974, which entered into force on 1 January 1996 (annex 1) and on 1 July 1998 (annex 2);

.13 by the December 1994 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.42(64) and entered into force on 1 July 1996;
by the May 1995 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.46(65) and entered into force on 1 January 1997;

by the November 1995 amendments, which were adopted by resolution 1 of the Conference of Contracting Governments to SOLAS, 1974, and entered into force on 1 July 1997;

by the June 1996 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.47(66) and entered into force on 1 July 1998;

by the December 1996 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.57(67) and entered into force on 1 July 1998;

by the June 1997 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.65(68) and entered into force on 1 July 1999;

by the November 1997 amendments which were adopted by resolution 1 of the Conference of Contracting Governments to SOLAS 1974 and entered into force on 1 July 1999;

by the May 1998 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.69(69) and entered into force on 1 July 2002;

by the May 1999 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.87(71) and entered into force on 1 January 2001;

by the May 2000 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.91(72) and entered into force on 1 January 2002;

by the November 2000 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.99(73) and entered into force on 1 July 2002;

by the June 2001 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.117(74) and entered into force on 1 January 2003;

by the May 2002 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.123(75) and entered into force on 1 January 2004;

by the December 2002 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.134(76) and entered into force on 1 July 2004;

by the December 2002 amendments, which were adopted by resolution 1 of the Conference of Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and entered into force on 1 July 2004;

by the June 2003 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.142(77) and entered into force on 1 July 2006;

by the May 2004 amendments, which were adopted by resolutions MSC.151(78), MSC.152(78) and MSC.153(78), and entered into force on 1 January 2006, 1 July 2006 and 1 July 2006, respectively;

by the December 2004 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.170(79) and entered into force on 1 July 2006;

by the May 2005 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.194(80) and entered into force on 1 January 2007 (annex 1) and 1 January 2009 (annex 2);

by the May 2006 amendments, which were adopted by:

1. resolution MSC.201(81). At the time of their adoption, the Maritime Safety Committee determined that these amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 January 2010 and will enter into force on 1 July 2010, unless, prior to 1 January 2010, more than one third of the Contracting Governments to the Convention, or Contracting Governments the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world’s merchant fleet, have notified their objections to the amendments; and

2. resolution MSC.202(81) and entered into force on 1 January 2008;
by the December 2006 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.216(82) and:

1 entered into force on 1 July 2008 (annex 1);
2 entered into force on 1 January 2009 (annex 2); and
3 at the time of their adoption, the Maritime Safety Committee determined that the amendments set out in annex 3 to the resolution shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 January 2010 and will enter into force on 1 July 2010, unless, prior to 1 January 2010, more than one third of the Contracting Governments to the Convention, or Contracting Governments the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world’s merchant fleet, have notified their objections to the amendments.

by the October 2007 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.239(83) and entered into force on 1 July 2009;

by the May 2008 amendments, which were adopted by resolutions MSC.256(84) and MSC.257(84) and are due to enter into force on 1 January 2010;

by the December 2008 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.269(85). At the time of their adoption, the Maritime Safety Committee determined that these amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 January 2010 (annex 1) and 1 July 2010 (annex 2), unless, prior to those dates, more than one third of the Contracting Governments to the Convention or Contracting Governments the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world’s merchant fleet, have notified their objections to the amendments, and will enter into force on 1 July 2010 and 1 January 2011, respectively.

The 1988 SOLAS Protocol has been amended by the May 2000 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.92(72) and entered into force on 1 January 2002; by the May 2002 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.124(75) and entered into force on 1 January 2004; by the May 2004 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.154(78) and entered into force on 1 July 2006; and by the December 2004 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.171(79) and entered into force on 1 July 2006. The 1988 Protocol has also been amended by the May 2006 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.204(81) and shall be deemed to have been accepted on the date on which they have been accepted by two thirds of the Parties to the Protocol and shall enter into force six months after that date. The 1988 Protocol has also been amended by the December 2006 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.227(82) and entered into force on 1 July 2008; by the October 2007 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.240(83) and entered into force on 1 July 2009; and by the May 2008 amendments, which were adopted by resolution MSC.258(84) and are due to enter into force on 1 January 2010.

Content of the consolidated text

This publication, compiled by the Secretariat to provide an easy reference to SOLAS requirements, contains a consolidated text of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, the 1988 SOLAS Protocol, and all subsequent amendments thereto in force as on 1 July 2009.

The publication has been arranged in two parts:

1 part 1, which contains the 1974 SOLAS Convention and 1988 SOLAS Protocol articles, requirements and certificates; and
2 part 2, which contains a list of certificates and documents* to be carried on board ships and a list of resolutions adopted by the aforementioned SOLAS Conferences.

*The list of certificates includes brief descriptions of the purpose of all certificates and documents specified therein for the purpose of assisting shore staff, officials and shipmasters in evaluating the documents and certificates, which are necessary for port State control and for the smooth operation of ships in ports.
6 The operational requirements contained in this consolidated text are, in general, applicable to all ships, whilst the requirements for ship construction and equipment apply to ships constructed on or after the dates specified in the various regulations. To identify construction and equipment requirements applicable to ships constructed before 2009, previous texts of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, the 1988 SOLAS Protocol and the amendments to the Convention should be consulted.

7 Those requirements of chapter I and of the appendix to the annex to the 1974 SOLAS Convention which have been modified by the 1988 SOLAS Protocol are indicated by the symbol $\&_{P88}$. No similar symbol is shown for requirements of the 1974 SOLAS Convention which were modified by the 1978 SOLAS Protocol because, whilst, in respect of chapter I of the Convention, the requirements thereof have been replaced and abrogated by the 1988 SOLAS Protocol, as between Parties to the Protocol, for requirements in other chapters of the Convention, they have been superseded by SOLAS amendments subsequently adopted.

8 In general, this publication reproduces the text of the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the 1988 SOLAS Protocol and includes the modifications and amendments thereto given in their authentic texts. In addition, it includes some minor editorial changes, which, while not altering the substance, aim at achieving a degree of consistency between the texts of the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the 1988 SOLAS Protocol and the various amendments. In particular:

1. while the decimal numbering system is used for paragraphs and subparagraphs of regulations in chapters II-1, II-2, III, IV, V, VI and VII, which were completely rewritten in the respective amendments, the original numbering system is retained in chapters I and VIII;

2. the references to regulations, paragraphs and chapters in the texts adopted in the 1981 and subsequent amendments use an abbreviated form (e.g. “regulation II-2/55.5”), whereas the original reference system is retained in unamended regulations (e.g. “regulation 5 of this chapter”, “paragraph (a) of this regulation”, etc.);

3. the term $\text{tons gross tonnage}$ has been replaced by the term $\text{gross tonnage}$ in view of the Assembly’s decision (resolution A.493(XII)) that the term $\text{tons gross tonnage}$ used in IMO instruments should be considered as having the same meaning as $\text{gross tonnage}$ as determined under the 1969 Tonnage Convention; and

4. metric values of the SI system have been used in accordance with resolution A.351(IX).

Status of footnotes

9 The footnotes given in this consolidated text (which do not, as noted by the MSC, form part of the Convention but are inserted for ease of reference) refer to codes, guidelines and recommendations relating to a particular text and were updated by the Secretariat at the time of publication. In addition, certain explanatory footnotes have been inserted based on relevant texts of codes, guidelines, recommendations and other decisions of the MSC. In all cases, the reader must make use of the latest versions of the referenced texts, bearing in mind that such texts may have been revised or superseded by updated material since publication of this consolidated edition of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended.