The 2009 MODU Code presents a major revision of the 1989 MODU Code prompted by the need to update the provisions for helicopter facilities on MODUs following amendments by the ICAO Council in 2004. It also contains, amongst others:

- Clarification of differing jurisdiction and control mechanisms of port and coastal States
- Changes to the provisions for casualty investigations
- New provisions for means of access and safe access to spaces
- Inclusion of provisions for anti-fouling systems and ballast water management
- Clarification and additional requirements for remotely operated doors
- Provision of additional requirements for jacking systems
- New requirements to enhance personnel safety
- New requirements for hoisting equipment

The 2009 MODU Code provides an international standard for MODUs of new construction which will facilitate their international movement and operation and ensure a level of safety for such units and for personnel on board, equivalent to that required by the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, for conventional ships engaged on international voyages.

For mobile offshore units constructed before 1 January 2012, the provisions of the 1989 MODU Code, as amended, should still be applied.