Sjøfartsdirektoratet
Norwegian Maritime Authority

Circular - Series R

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Regulation amending the Regulations on dangerous goods on Norwegian ships following amendments to the IGC Code; Implementation of Resolution MSC.566(109)

The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has adopted an amendment to the Regulations of 1 July 2014 No. 944 on dangerous goods on Norwegian ships. The amended Regulations enter into force on 1 July 2026.

Background to the consultation

The International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code) has been implemented through Chapter VII of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). The IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) undertakes periodic revisions of the IGC Code to reflect operational experience and technical developments. On 6 December 2024, by Resolution MSC.566(109), the MSC adopted an amendment to regulation 16.9.2 of the IGC Code which, subject to specified conditions, permits cargoes defined in the IGC Code as "toxic products" to be used as fuel. The amendment enters into force on 1 July 2026. For example, the amendment enables the NMA to consider ammonia cargo as an alternative fuel for a gas carrier. Guidelines for the use of ammonia cargo as fuel on gas carriers were approved by MSC 111 in May 2026. The NMA should preferably be contacted at an early stage if an application pursuant to regulation 16.9.2 of the IGC Code is contemplated.

In Norwegian law, the IGC Code has been incorporated by specific reference in section 5 (d) of the Regulations of 1 July 2014 No. 944 on dangerous goods on Norwegian ships. The implementing provision has now been amended to ensure compliance with the revised international regulatory framework. Section 8 second paragraph of the Regulations on dangerous goods on Norwegian ships provides that the IGC Code applies correspondingly to cargo ships engaged on domestic voyages.

The consultation

The proposed amendment was circulated for public consultation from 26 March to 26 June 2026. The amendment was also notified to the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA). The standstill period expired on 29 June 2026. The NMA received no comments on the proposed amendments.

Financial and administrative consequences

The amendment updates the legislation for Norwegian ships in accordance with the amendments to the International IGC Code. It is assumed that stakeholders who apply the IGC Code in their day-to-day activities are well acquainted with significant amendments to the Code. Should new fuel technology be introduced, this may entail investment costs. The authorities will adapt the enforcement of the legislation to the amendments to the Code.

Yours faithfully,

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Director General of Shipping and Navigation

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Head of Department
Legislation and International Relations

Sjøfartsdirektoratet
Norwegian Maritime Authority

This document has been electronically approved and therefore does not contain handwritten signatures.

Attachments: Regulation amending the Regulations on dangerous goods on Norwegian ships

Resolution MSC.566(109)

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