Regulations of 23 November 2016 No. 1363 on safety measures for ships operating in polar waters

Legal basis: Laid down by the Norwegian Maritime Authority on 23 November 2016 under the Act of 16 February 2007 No. 9 relating to ship safety and security (Ship Safety and Security Act) sections 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 43, cf. Formal Delegation of 16 February 2007 No. 171 and Formal Delegation sof 31 May 2007 No. 590.
Amendments: Amended by Regulations of 26 June 2025 No. 1372, 19 December 2025 No. 2820 (in force on 1 January 2026).

Section 1.
Scope of application

These Regulations apply to the following Norwegian ships operating in polar waters:

a. ships holding a Passenger Ship Safety Certificate;
b. ships holding a Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate and a Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate;
c. fishing vessels of 24 metres in overall length and upwards;
d. ships not engaged in trade of 300 gross tonnage and upwards;
e. cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage and upwards, but below 500 gross tonnage.

The first paragraph also applies to ships owned or operated by the Norwegian State that are currently used only for non-commercial public service, except ships belonging to, or used in the service of, the Norwegian Armed Forces.

Amended by 19 December 2025 No. 2820 (in force on 1 January 2026).

Section 2.
SOLAS Chapter XIV

The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS) chapter XIV, adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.386(94), as amended by IMO Resolution MSC.532(107), shall apply as regulation.

Amended by 19 December 2025 No. 2820 (in force on 1 January 2026).

Section 3.
The Polar Code Part I-A

The International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.385(94), as amended by IMO Resolution MSC.538(107), Part I-A and the safety-related provisions in the introduction, shall apply as regulation to ships referred to in section 1 first paragraph (a) and (b).

Amended by 19 December 2025 No. 2820 (in force on 1 January 2026).

Section 4.
Ships holding a trading certificate

Chapters 9-1 and 11-1 of Part I-A of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.385(94), as amended by IMO Resolution MSC.538(107), shall apply as regulations to ships referred to in section 1 (c) to (e). In the interpretation of these provisions, due account shall be taken of the introduction and the safety-related provisions in regulations 1.2, 1.4 and 1.5 of Part I-A of the Polar Code.

Regulations 9-1.3.1 and 9-1.3.2 of Part I-A of the Polar Code also apply to ships referred to in section 1 (c), ships referred to in section 1 (d) of less than 500 gross tonnage not engaged on international voyages and ships referred to in section 1 (e) not engaged on international voyages.

The first and second paragraphs also apply to the territorial waters around Svalbard and Jan Mayen.

"Ice-strengthened ship", as used in regulation 9-1.3.2 of Part I-A of the Polar Code, means a ship subject to statutory requirements for ice strengthening and a ship that is ice-strengthened in accordance with a standard from a recognised organisation, the classification rules of a recognised organisation or another recognised standard.

Added by 19 December 2025 No. 2820 (in force on 1 January 2026).

Section 5.
Exemptions

The Norwegian Maritime Authority may, upon written application, grant exemptions from the requirements of these Regulations in accordance with SOLAS Chapter I Regulation 4 or 5.

Added by 19 December 2025 No. 2820 (in force on 1 January 2026).

Section 6.
Entry into force

These Regulations enter into force on 1 January 2017.

Amended by 19 December 2025 No. 2820 (in force on 1 January 2026, formerly section 4).