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MSC.1/Circ.1681
26 February 2025

**VOLUNTARY EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 16
OF THE IGC CODE, ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION MSC.566(109)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 109th session (2 to 6 December 2024), adopted amendments to the IGC Code by resolution MSC.566(109).

2 The entry-into-force date of the aforementioned amendments is 1 July 2026, applicable to ships subject to the Code, the keels of which are laid, or which are at a similar stage of construction, on or after 1 July 2016, in accordance with paragraph 1.1.2.1 of the IGC Code.

3 In adopting the amendments to chapter 16 of the IGC Code, the Committee, having considered the need for their voluntary early implementation, in accordance with the *Guidelines on the voluntary early implementation of amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and related mandatory instruments* (MSC.1/Circ.1565), agreed to invite the Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, to implement them prior to the entry-into-force date.

4 Voluntary early implementation should be communicated by a Contracting Government to the Organization for dissemination through GISIS (Module on Survey and Certification).

5 In addition to the aforementioned communication, a Contracting Government may also consider the use of the existing provisions for equivalent arrangements under SOLAS regulation I/5 to cover the interim period between the date of the voluntary early implementation and the entry-into-force date of the amendments.

6 A Contracting Government, in line with paragraph 1.2.4 of the *Procedures for port State control, 2023* (resolution A.1185(33)), as may be amended, when acting as a port State, should refrain from enforcing its decision on the voluntary early implementation of amendments to chapter 16 of the IGC Code to ships entitled to fly the flag of other Contracting Governments, calling at its ports.

7 The Contracting Governments, when undertaking port State control activities, should take into account the present invitation and any subsequent notifications communicated by other Contracting Governments through GISIS.

8 Contracting Governments are invited to be guided accordingly and to bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all concerned, especially port State control authorities and recognized organizations.