

MERCHANT SHIPPING (LOCAL VESSELS) ORDINANCE (Chapter 548)

REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE

Pursuant to sections 8(2) and 8(3) of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Chapter 548), it is hereby notified that I have approved the following revisions to the Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class II Vessels (February 2023 Edition) with effect from 5 May 2023:

1. Chapter I amended (General)

- i. Section 3.1, under the definition of “dangerous goods carrier”, after “oil carrier” —
Add
“ or a gas carrier”.

- ii. Section 3.1, before “gross tonnage” —
Add
““gas carrier” means a cargo ship constructed or adapted and used for the carriage in bulk of any liquefied gas or other products listed in the table of chapter 19 of the 2014 IGC Code; ”.

- iii. Section 3.1, before “IBC Code” —
Add
“2014 IGC Code means the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk as adopted by resolution MSC.5(48) and amended by resolution MSC. 370(93);”.

- iv. Section 3.1, under the definition of “high risk vessel”, after “oil carrier,” —
Add
“a gas carrier,”.

- v. Section 5, Category of Vessel, in the table below the column “Oil Carrier” —
Add
a new row as follows:

Gas Carrier	*	*		
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2. Chapter II amended (Survey / Inspection, Issuance of Certificate and Plan Approval)

- i. In Table 7-2, after “Oil” in the heading “Class IIA DG/Oil/NLS Carrier”

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Add

“/Gas”.

- ii. In Table 7-2, after “Oil” in the heading “Class IIA Vessel other than DG/Oil/NLS Carrier” —

Add

“/Gas”.

- iii. In Table 7-3, after “oil carrier” in *11 of Remarks—

Add

“, gas carrier”.

3. Chapter IIIA amended (Hull Construction, Machinery, Electrical Installations and Fittings – Category A Vessel)

- i. 7.1(a) —

Repeal

“(a) oil tanker;”

Substitute

“(a) oil carrier;”.

- ii. 7.1(d) —

Repeal

“(d) tug; or”

Substitute

“(d) tug;”.

- iii. after 7.1(d) —

Add

“(e) gas carrier; or”.

- iv. 7.1(e) —

Repeal

“(e) vessel plying beyond Hong Kong waters”

Substitute

“(f) vessel plying beyond Hong Kong waters”.

v. 8.4(a) —

Repeal

“(a) <oil tanker carrying cargo oil having a flash point not exceeding 60°C (closed cup test)>.”

Substitute

“(a) <oil carrier carrying cargo oil having a flash point not exceeding 60°C (closed cup test)>.”.

vi. 8.4(d) —

Repeal

“(d) <tug>; or”

Substitute

“(d) <tug>.”.

vii. after 8.4(d) —

Add

“(e) <gas carrier>; or”.

viii. 8.4(e) —

Repeal

“(e) <Category A vessel plying beyond Hong Kong waters>”

Substitute

“(f) <Category A vessel plying beyond Hong Kong waters>”.

4. Chapter IV amended (Freeboard and Stability)

After the first section under the header Class II Vessel in table under Section 1.1—

Add

a new section with a row as follows:

Gas Carrier	HKLLC	IMO	HKLLC	IMO
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5. Chapter XII amended (Vessel Safe Operation and Operator Requirements)

- i. After 3.2(f) —

Add

“(g) gas carrier;”.

- ii. 3.2(g) —

Repeal

“(g) any other type of vessel as considered by the Director not suitable to be operated by only a combined coxswain.”

Substitute

“(h) any other type of vessel as considered by the Director not suitable to be operated by only a combined coxswain.”.

6. Annex I-5A amended (Requirements for the Replacement of Main Engine)

- i. item (v) of Remarks—

Repeal

“(v) Category A vessels that may ply beyond Hong Kong waters.”

Substitute

“(v) Category A vessels that may ply beyond Hong Kong waters;”

- ii. after item (v) of Remarks—

Add

“(vi) Gas carrier.”.

7. Annex U-4 amended (Minimum Safe Manning Requirements)

- i. In the heading of [Table-1] —

Repeal

“Dry Cargo Vessel ^(c) and Oil Carrier/Tanker ^(f)”

Substitute

“Dry Cargo Vessel ^(c), Oil Carrier/Tanker and Gas Carrier ^(f)”.

- ii. item (f) of Notes —

Repeal

“Coxswain, engine operator and crew members working onboard oil tankers/carriers should hold relevant oil tanker/carrier safety training certificates respectively. For oil tankers/carriers, noxious liquid substance carriers and dangerous goods carriers, one extra deck crew is required to assist with deck operational and emergency measures.”

Substitute

“Coxswain, engine operator and crewmembers working onboard oil carriers and gas carriers should hold relevant oil carrier and gas carrier safety training certificates respectively. For oil carriers, gas carriers, noxious liquid substance carriers and dangerous goods carriers, one extra deck crew is required to assist with deck operational and emergency measures.”.

8. The following new Chapter XIII is added:

CHAPTER XIII SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GAS CARRIERS

1. Application to Gas Carriers

- 1.1 Unless expressly provided otherwise, this chapter applies to gas carriers that fall under the definition of a new vessel as defined in S.2 of the Survey Regulation. Such gas carriers shall comply with the requirements of this chapter in addition to any other applicable requirements of this code of practice.

2. Requirements for gas carriers

- 2.1 A gas carrier shall comply with the requirements of the 2014 IGC Code in entirety and be surveyed and certified as provided for in that Code.
- 2.2 A gas carrier shall hold a valid classification certificate issued by an AO as a gas carrier certifying the vessel is in full compliance with the rules published by the AO governing the main and additional class notations assigned which cover all aspects of the design, construction, service and operation under 2014 IGC Code for the gas carrier’s purposes.
- 2.3 A gas carrier shall hold a valid Certificate of Fitness as defined in the 2014 IGC Code issued by an AO.

The above revisions are for the purpose of providing practical guidance in respect of the requirements on survey and certification for a new type of local vessels, gas carriers, under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Chapter 548) and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Chapter 548G).

The newly amended Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class II Vessels (April 2023 Edition) can be inspected at the Local Vessels Safety Section, Marine Department, 23rd Floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong (Telephone No.: 2852 4444) or downloaded from Marine Department’s website (www.mardep.gov.hk).

28 April 2023

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