



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 838 of 6th August 2024

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Lost or Observed Freight Containers
Reference	SOLAS Chapter V

Amendments to SOLAS and MARPOL on Mandatory Reporting of Lost or Observed Freight Containers

Due to the repeated occurrence of container losses and the danger they pose to shipping, the Committee adopted amendments to SOLAS Chapter V which require reporting of freight containers lost at sea or observed adrift at sea. These amendments have been developed to address the navigation hazard represented by freight containers lost at sea and to enhance the position tracking and recovery of such containers. Revisions to Regulation 31 of SOLAS Chapter V require the master of every ship involved in the loss of freight containers to communicate details of the incident to other ships in the vicinity, to the nearest coastal State and the flag State. In the event that the ship is abandoned or otherwise unable to complete this reporting, the ISM management company of the vessel must assume responsibility for this reporting to the fullest extent possible. For vessels not involved in a loss incident but observing a freight container drifting at sea, the master of the ship is obligated to report such observations to other ships in the vicinity and to the nearest coastal State. Associated revisions to Regulation 32 of the same chapter provide a list of information to be collected when reporting the loss of freight containers from a ship or the observation of freight containers drifting at sea. This amendment inserts a cross-reference to the revised Regulations 31 and 32 of SOLAS Chapter V and establishes the reporting of lost freight containers as an obligation under the MARPOL Convention as well.

Application: The amendments shall enter into force on January 1, 2026, and will apply to any ship carrying one or more containers or observing lost container(s) at sea.

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REFERENCES:

- Regulations 31 and 32 of SOLAS Chapter V

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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