

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL POLAR CODE

Arctic Council Meeting
27 March 2014

Koji Sekimizu
Secretary-General, IMO



The regulatory framework



Requirements affecting ships operating in polar regions

Safety requirements apply to all ships which are subject to the Convention and operating in polar regions.



Provides the mandatory level environmental protection with zero discharge requirements for Antarctica.

Legal framework governing the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of ocean space.

Newly adopted guidance and recommendations for training and competency of officers and masters on ships in polar regions.

UNCLOS



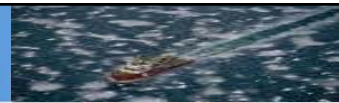
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- Legal framework governing the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of ocean space
- In force since 1994, to date signed by 162 countries
- Article 234: “Coastal States have the right to adopt and enforce non-discriminatory laws and regulations for the prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution from vessels in ice-covered areas within the limits of the exclusive economic zone ...”

3



Guidelines for ships in polar waters



Recommendations for ships operating in polar waters



- 2002: MSC/Circ.1056 on Guidelines for ships operating in Arctic ice-covered waters
- 2004: ATCM request to extend to Antarctic
- 2007: MV Explorer sinking
- 2009: A.1024(26) on Guidelines for ships operating in polar waters

4



Mandatory Polar Code



New IMO instrument under development

- MSC 86 in 2009 approved proposals for development of mandatory Polar Code and instructed DE S-C
- DE 53 started work in 2010
- Draft **International Code for ships operating in polar waters** under development
- Polar Code Correspondence Group reported to SDC 1 (Jan. 2014) and WG developed draft Code further
- Parts of the Code referred to HTW (crewing/manning), SSE (stability, fire protection) and NCSR (safety of navigation, communication) S-Cs

5



Polar classes



International standards to be utilized (IACS Polar Class)

POLAR CLASS DESCRIPTION

- PC1** Year-round operation in all ice-covered waters
- PC2** Year-round operation in moderate multi-year ice conditions
- PC3** Year-round operation in second-year ice which may include multi-year ice inclusions
- PC4** Year-round operation in thick first-year ice which may include old ice inclusions
- PC5** Year-round operation in medium first-year ice which may include old ice inclusions
- PC6** Summer/autumn operation in medium first-year ice which may include old ice inclusions
- PC7** Summer/autumn operation in thin first-year ice which may include old ice inclusions

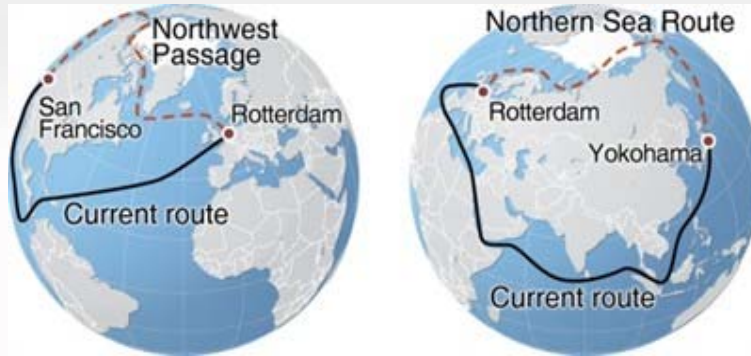
IMO Polar Code

- Polar Class designation, based on IACS Unified Requirements for Polar Class Ships, included in the Code by reference
- Or comparable alternative standard of ice-strengthening
- Ice description follows WMO sea ice nomenclature (see box opposite)

6



New routes may open up



Gain in distance: around 3,900 to 4,500 nm in both cases

Source: www.grida.no

7



Polar Code structure



Part I-A – Safety measures (mandatory)

- General
- Polar Water Operational Manual
- Ship structure
- Stability and subdivision
- Watertight and weathertight integrity
- Machinery installations
- Operational safety
- Fire safety/protection

- LSA and arrangements
- Safety of navigation
- Communication
- Voyage planning
- Manning and training

Part I-B Additional guidance (recommendatory)

8



Polar Code structure



Part II-A – Pollution prevention measures (mandatory)

- Prevention of oil pollution
- Prevention of pollution from noxious liquid substances
- Prevention of pollution by sewage from ships
- Prevention of pollution by garbage

Part II-B Information and additional guidance (recommendatory)

Appendix:
Form of Certificate for ships operating in polar waters

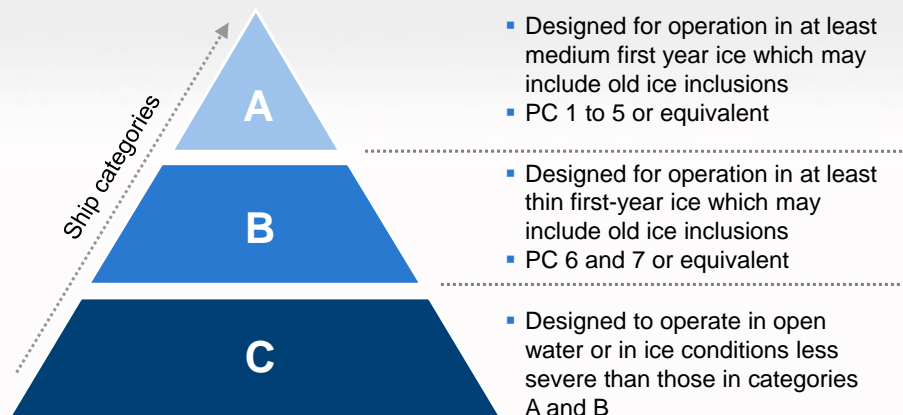
9



Mandatory Polar Code



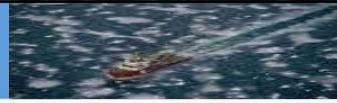
Categories of ships operating in polar waters



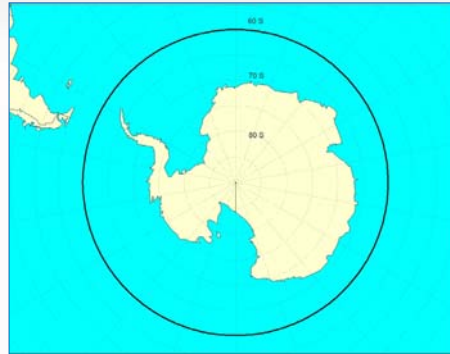
10



Mandatory Polar Code



Current geographical boundaries Arctic/Antarctic (as set out in Polar Guidelines)



11



Making the Code mandatory



IMO instruments to be amended

- Adoption of the Polar Code by means of MSC and MEPC resolutions
- Adoption of associated amendments to SOLAS and MARPOL to make the Code mandatory under those Conventions:
 - SOLAS: New chapter XIV
 - MARPOL: Amendments to MARPOL annexes
- Amendment procedures of the two Conventions determine entry-into-force date

12



Thank you for listening.



www.imo.org



13

