



Marine Notice No. 26 of 2023

This Marine Notice supersedes Marine Notice No. 34 of 1985

Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers, Leisure Craft Owners, Yachtsmen and Seafarers

Carriage of Nautical Charts and Publications

Introduction

1. The *Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Nautical Charts and Publications) Regulations 2021* ([S.I. No. 149 of 2021](#)) came into force on 30 March 2021 and give effect to the provisions relating to the carriage of nautical charts and publications of Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974. The Regulations revoke and replace the *Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Nautical Publications) Regulations 1985* (S.I. No. 282 of 1985).
2. The Regulations require Irish ships, including fishing vessels greater than 24 metres in length¹, and non-Irish ships when they are in Irish waters, to carry charts containing sufficient detail to show navigational marks, known dangers and other specified information, which is appropriate for each part of the intended voyage, as set out at paragraph 3 below. Vessels are also required to carry specified published nautical directions and information and other nautical publications as provided for at paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 below. The charts and publications to be carried will be dependent on the type and size of the vessel, as well as the area of operation.

Carriage of charts

3. The Regulations require Irish ships of 12 metres in length or over, Irish fishing vessels of 24 metres in length or over, and non-Irish ships when they are in Irish waters, to carry on board either:
 - (a) at least one copy of a chart which is appropriate for each part of the intended voyage and is of such a scale and contains sufficient detail to clearly show:
 - (i) all navigational marks which may be used by the ship when navigating the waters which are comprised in the chart,

¹ Regulation 147 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety of Fishing Vessels) (15-24 Metres) Regulations 2007 ([S.I. No. 640 of 2007](#)) details the requirements for charts and nautical publications for fishing vessels 15 to 24 metres in length.

- (ii) all known dangers affecting those waters, and
- (iii) information concerning any traffic separation schemes, two-way routes, recommended tracks, inshore traffic zones and deep-water routes applicable to those waters and are as therein which are to be avoided,

which, in all cases, is of the latest obtainable edition and has been corrected and kept up to date from the latest relevant obtainable Notices to Mariners and Radio Navigational Warnings, or

(b) an approved Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS).

Carriage of nautical directions and information and other nautical publications

Vessels voyaging beyond 5 nautical miles:

4. The Regulations require Irish ships of 12 metres in length or over, Irish fishing vessels of 24 metres in length or over, and non-Irish ships when they are in Irish waters, which voyage beyond a distance of 5 nautical miles from any coastline to carry on board the publications, nautical directions and information listed in Annex A below.

Vessels not voyaging beyond 5 nautical miles:

5. The Regulations require Irish ships of 12 metres in length or over, Irish fishing vessels of 24 metres in length or over, and non-Irish ships when they are in Irish waters, which do not voyage beyond a distance of 5 nautical miles from any coastline to carry on board the nautical publications listed in Annex B below.

All vessels:

6. All Irish vessels which go out to sea, or attempt to go out to sea, including ships less than 12 metres in length and fishing vessels less than 24 metres in length, and non-Irish ships when they are in Irish waters, regardless of area of operation must carry at least one copy of the most up-to-date version of an Illustrated Table of Life Saving Signals. This does not apply to small vessels operating on inland waterways.
7. All such charts, nautical directions and information and other nautical publications are to be carried on board in a place readily available to the officer of the watch.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

06/04/2023
Updated 04/03/2024

Encl.: Annex A – Nautical publications for carriage on board on voyages going beyond 5 nautical miles

Annex B – Nautical publications for carriage on board on voyages not going beyond 5 nautical miles

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie.

For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie.

Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport

Annex A – Nautical publications for carriage on board on voyages going beyond 5 nautical miles

Publications, Nautical Directions and Information	Publisher
The International Code of Signals as currently maintained by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)	IMO
Illustrated Table of Life Saving Signals	IMO
Marine Notices	The Department of Transport
Mariners Handbook	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO)
Notices to Mariners	UKHO
Nautical Almanac	UKHO / other publications containing required astronomical information.
Navigational Tables	Suitable for Navigation
ITU List IV Coast Stations, ITU List V Ship Stations and ITU Maritime Manual	International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
Admiralty Lists of Radio Signals	UKHO
Lists of Lights	UKHO
Sailing Directions	UKHO
Tide Tables	UKHO
Tidal Stream Atlases	UKHO
Operating and Maintenance instructions for navigational aids carried by the vessel	Equipment suppliers etc.
Volume III of the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) manual	IMO

Annex B – Nautical publications for carriage on board on voyages not going beyond 5 nautical miles

Nautical Publications	Publisher
The International Code of Signals as currently maintained by the IMO	IMO
Illustrated Table of Life Saving Signals	IMO
Admiralty Lists of Radio Signals	UKHO (suitable for area of operation)
Tide Tables for the locality concerned	UKHO / suitable for area of operation e.g., published by port authority
Volume III of the IAMSAR manual	IMO
