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YEARS AT ALBERT EMBANKMENT

1983 - 2013



INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
ORGANIZATION

In late 1982, the IMO Secretariat moved to its new permanent London Headquarters at 4 Albert Embankment. The building, housing conference facilities and offices, was formally opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 17 May 1983.

1983

- World Maritime University is founded in Malmö, Sweden.
- MARPOL 73/78 enters into force.
- First Assembly resolution on piracy.



1984

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, enters into force.

1985

International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), 1979, enters into force.



1986

Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976, enters into force.

1988

- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf adopted.
- Establishment of the International Maritime Law Institute in Malta.

1987

Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) agreed to consider package of structural and operational measures relating to ro-ro ferry safety following Herald of Free Enterprise disaster.

1990

Great Barrier Reef (Australia) is first area to be given Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) status by IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC).

1992

- Adoption of "double hull" amendments to Annex I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).
- 1992 Fire Safety Amendments in response to Scandinavian Star.
- Flag State Implementation Sub-Committee was established by the MSC and MEPC.

1993

IMO Assembly adopts International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (ISM Code).

1994

Panel of Experts established to study ro-ro safety in the wake of the Estonia disaster.



1989

International Convention on Salvage adopted.

1991

Following major oil pollution incident in Persian Gulf, IMO sets up a Disaster Fund and establishes a Coordination Centre at Headquarters to help deal with the threat to the environment, providing a real-life test of the principles of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC), 1990.

2000

MSC adopts amendments to SOLAS to make voyage data recorders mandatory on new passenger ships, new and existing ro-ro passenger ships and ships other than passenger ships of 3,000 gross tonnage and upwards from 1 July 2002, and on existing passenger ships by 2004.

1998

Revised annex to International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), 1979, adopted. IMO Search and Rescue Conference in Fremantle, Australia, completes SAR arrangements for all 13 SAR regions.

1995

- Conference adopts major revisions to the STCW Convention, including the introduction of the STCW Code, and giving IMO a role in monitoring compliance.
- International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) adopted.
- OPRC Convention enters into force.



2005

2005 SUA Protocols adopted to amend the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts (SUA) Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988 and its related Protocol.

2003

Amendments to MARPOL Annex I, adopted, bringing in a revised, accelerated phase-out scheme for single hull tankers, the Condition Assessment Scheme (CAS) for tankers and a new regulation banning the carriage of Heavy Grade Oil (HGO) in single-hull tankers.

2002

IMO adopts new SOLAS chapter XI-2 (Special measures to enhance maritime security) and the mandatory International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.



2006

- New international standards for new passenger ships adopted, introducing the concept of "safe return to port", following a comprehensive review of passenger ship safety initiated in 2000.
- Amendments to SOLAS chapter V: Long-Range Identification and Tracking.

2004

International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM), 2004, adopted.

2001

IMO adopts the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Pollution from Ships' Bunkers, 2001, and the International Convention on Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001.

1999

Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), adopted in 1988, becomes fully implemented on all passenger ships and all cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage and above on international voyages.

1997

1997 Protocol to the MARPOL Convention adopted, to include a new Annex VI on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships.

1996

1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972, adopted, incorporating precautionary approach.

2007

- Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007, is adopted.
- 2000 OPRC-HNS Protocol enters into force.



2008

- Revised MARPOL Annex VI adopted to further reduce harmful emissions from ships.
- AFS Convention enters into force.
- £63M refurbishment of HQ building completed.

2009

IMO adopts the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009.



2010

- The Manila amendments to the STCW Convention and Code adopted at Manila Conference, which agrees to set 25 June annually as the international Day of the Seafarer.
- Adoption of Goal-Based Standards for new tankers and bulk carriers.

2011

Mandatory measures to enhance energy efficiency (EEDI/SEEMP) for international shipping adopted by Parties to MARPOL Annex VI.

2012

Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1993 Protocol relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977 adopted.

2013

Mandatory IMO Member State Audit Scheme set for adoption at IMO Assembly.





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