

ANNEX 11

**RESOLUTION MSC.591(111)
(adopted on 21 May 2026)**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING TO
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LOAD LINES, 1966
(1988 LOAD LINES PROTOCOL)**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO article VI of the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 ("1988 Load Lines Protocol") concerning amendment procedures,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its 111th session, amendments to the 1988 Load Lines Protocol proposed and circulated in accordance with article VI(2)(a) thereof,

1 ADOPTS, in accordance with article VI(2)(d) of the 1988 Load Lines Protocol, amendments to the 1988 Load Lines Protocol, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 DETERMINES, in accordance with article VI(2)(f)(ii)(bb) of the 1988 Load Lines Protocol, that the said amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2027, unless, prior to that date, more than one third of the Parties to the 1988 Load Lines Protocol, or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of all the merchant fleets of all Parties, have notified their objections to the amendments;

3 INVITES the Parties concerned to note that, in accordance with article VI(2)(g)(ii) of the 1988 Load Lines Protocol, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2028 upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4 REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in conformity with article VI(2)(e) of the 1988 Load Lines Protocol, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the annex to all Parties to the 1988 Load Lines Protocol;

5 ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and its annex to Members of the Organization which are not Parties to the 1988 Load Lines Protocol.

ANNEX

**DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING TO
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LOAD LINES, 1966
(1988 LOAD LINES PROTOCOL)**

**Annex B
ANNEXES TO THE CONVENTION AS MODIFIED BY
THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING THERETO**

**Annex I
Regulations for determining load lines**

**Chapter II
Conditions of assignment of freeboard**

Regulation 25

Protection of the crew

- 1 The following application provision is inserted before paragraph (1):

"This regulation, as amended by resolution MSC.591(111), shall apply to ships the keels of which are laid, or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2028."
- 2 Paragraph (2) is replaced by the following:

"(2) Guard rails or bulwarks shall be fitted around all exposed decks and all exposed sea access holes (such as edges of moonpools) accessible to the crew during navigation. The height of the bulwarks or guard rails shall be at least 1 m from the deck. Where this height interferes with the normal operation of the ship, a lesser height providing adequate protection may be approved by the Administration."
- 3 The chapeau of paragraph (3) is replaced by the following:

"(3) Guard rails referred to in paragraph (2) shall have at least three courses. The opening below the lowest course of the guard rails shall not exceed 230 mm. The other courses shall be not more than 380 mm apart. In the case of ships with rounded gunwales the guard rail supports shall be placed on the flat of the deck. Guard rails shall comply with the following provisions:"
- 4 Sub-paragraph (3)(d) is replaced by the following:

"(d) where necessary for the normal operation of the ship, chains fitted between two fixed stanchions and/or bulwarks are acceptable in lieu of guard rails, provided that the chains are tightened as much as reasonably practicable and are detachable."
