



IMO: Revised Port State Control (PSC) Procedures Into Effect on 01 January 2026



“PREPARED SHIPS DON'T FEAR INSPECTION “

REGULATORY UPDATE

New Global Standards for Port State Control Now in Force

IMO Assembly Resolution A.1206(34) — Procedures for Port State Control, 2025

IN EFFECT FROM 1 JANUARY 2026

OVERVIEW

What is Port State Control?

Port State Control (PSC) is the international mechanism by which coastal nations inspect foreign vessels calling at their ports. These inspections verify that a ship's condition, equipment, crew, and operational practices meet the requirements set out in international conventions. Rather than replacing flag State oversight, PSC serves as a critical second layer of assurance — a global safety net designed to catch and address substandard shipping before it causes harm.

WHY IT MATTERS

A Regional Approach to a Global Challenge

Ships trading across multiple ports in the same region were historically subject to repeated inspections — a burden on operators and port authorities alike. Regional PSC regimes, encouraged by IMO Resolution A.682(17), address this through coordinated inspection programmes that concentrate resources on high-risk vessels, avoid duplication, and help level the competitive playing field between ports.

The primary duty to uphold ship standards remains with flag States. PSC is a backstop mechanism — but one that has proven highly effective in identifying and detaining vessels that fall short of international requirements.

KEY UPDATE

Revised PSC Procedures — What's Changed?

The Procedures for Port State Control, 2025 (Resolution A.1206(34)) supersede the previous edition (A.1185(33)). While these procedures are not legally binding, they are adopted as best practice across all major regional PSC regimes — including the Paris MoU and Tokyo MoU — and are revised on a two-year cycle to stay aligned with evolving international standards.

WHAT'S NEW

Key Additions in the 2025 Edition

Appendix 20 — Security Guidelines for PSC Officers (New)

A dedicated set of guidelines for Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) covering maritime security inspections. These guidelines draw on the Interim Guidance from MSC.159(78) and clarify the correct procedures when security deficiencies are identified. Importantly, the guidelines are scoped specifically to PSCOs, distinguishing their role from that of Duly Authorised Officers (DAOs).

Appendix 21 — Updated Instruments Reference List

The list of instruments relevant to PSC procedures has been updated to include the 2024 Guidelines for SEEMP development (MEPC.395(82)) and the voluntary early implementation provisions for IGF Code amendments under MSC.551(108), reflecting the industry's increasing focus on energy efficiency and alternative fuels compliance.

The full text of IMO Assembly Resolution A.1206(34) is available for download from the IMO website.



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