

MEMBER ALERT



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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES (IACS) ADOPTS NEW REQUIREMENTS ON CYBER SECURITY

Recognizing that cyber incidents on vessels can have a direct and detrimental impact on life, property, and the environment, IACS has steadily increased its focus on the reliability and functional effectiveness of onboard, safety-critical, computer-based systems.

IACS identified at an early stage that, for ships to be resilient against cyber incidents, all parts of the industry needed to be actively involved, and so convened a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cyber Systems which helped identify best practices, appropriate existing standards in risk and cyber security, and a practical risk-based approach.

Building on this extensive collaboration, and utilizing the experience gained from its existing Recommendations, as well as developments at IMO including, in particular, IMO Resolution MSC.428(98) applicable to in-service vessels since the January 1, 2021, IACS has adopted two new IACS Unified Requirements (URs) on the cyber resilience of ships:

UR E26, [Cyber resilience of ships](#), aims to ensure the secure integration of both Operational Technology (OT) and Information Technology (IT) equipment into the ship's network during the design, construction, commissioning, and operational life of the ship. This UR targets the ship as a collective entity for cyber resilience and covers five key aspects: equipment identification, protection, attack detection, response, and recovery.

UR E27, [Cyber resilience of on-board systems and equipment](#), aims to ensure system integrity is secured and hardened by third-party equipment suppliers. This UR provides requirements for cyber resilience of onboard systems and equipment and provides additional requirements relating to the interface between users and computer-based systems onboard, as well as product design and development requirements for new devices before their implementation onboard ships.

These URs will be applied to new ships contracted for construction on and after January 1, 2024 although the information contained therein may be applied in the interim as non-mandatory guidance.

Your Managers recommend that Members take note of this information and be guided accordingly.