

OSV Code

Code of Safe Practice
for the Carriage of Cargoes
and Persons by Offshore
Supply Vessels

Resolution A.863(20)



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Foreword

Recognizing that the specialized operations of offshore supply vessels (OSVs) may expose personnel and cargoes on board to additional hazards and that a number of serious accidents have occurred on OSVs during cargo and personnel carriage operations, IMO's Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers at its first session (February 1996) developed the Code of Safe Practice for the Carriage of Cargoes and Persons by Offshore Supply Vessels (OSV Code).

The Code was approved by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) at its sixty-sixth session (June 1996) and adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth session (November 1997) by resolution A.863(20), which recommended that Governments apply the Code and requested the MSC to keep it under review and amend it, as necessary.

The Code provides for safe practice in the operation and management of OSVs when interfacing with offshore installations, and also gives practical guidance on items to be covered by a safety management system as required by the International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (International Safety Management (ISM) Code).

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Code of Safe Practice for the Carriage of Cargoes and Persons by Offshore Supply Vessels (OSV Code)

PREAMBLE

The purpose of this Code of Safe Practice* is to provide, for both operator and contractor, an international standard to avoid or reduce to a minimum the hazards which affect offshore supply vessels in their daily operation of carrying cargoes and persons to, from and between offshore installations. It is not intended to address contractual matters or the financial implications that occur in the operator/contractor relationship.

This standard should be considered when implementing a safety management system (SMS) within the meaning of 1.4 of the IMO International Safety Management (ISM) Code.

Chapter 1 *General*

1.1 Definitions

1.1.1 *Contractor* means the organization that has the responsibility for the operation of the ship as laid down in 1.1.2 of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code.

1.1.2 *Operator*[†] means the party who contracts an offshore supply vessel.

1.1.3 *Offshore supply vessel (OSV)* means a vessel which is used for the transportation of stores, materials, equipment or personnel to, from and between offshore installations.

* The Code of Safe Practice for the Carriage of Cargoes and Persons by Offshore Supply Vessels (OSV Code) comprises the annex to resolution A.863(20), the text of which is reproduced on page 14 of this publication.

[†] A mobile offshore unit (MOU) owner/contractor is the operator in cases where he contracts an offshore supply vessel.