

# NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENT LOSS OR OBSERVATION OF FREIGHT CONTAINERS

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From 1 January 2026, SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 31 is amended to reflect and clarify new reporting requirements for the loss of freight containers from ships. The ship's master, or where the master is unable, the company, will report any loss of freight container without delay to nearby ships and the nearest coastal state. The reporting format is added in SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 32 and will include the information listed below in Table 1.

This amendment also imposes the requirement on ships masters to report any observation of a freight container drifting at sea without delay to nearby ships and the nearest coastal state, following the reporting format listed below in table 2.

Shipowners are recommended to update their procedures and reporting format(s) as necessary to meet these requirements.



TABLE 1	
Type of Report: Loss of freight container(s) from a ship	Message No:
Time (UTC):	Date:
IMO No:	Call Sign:
Ship Name:	MMSI No:
From: (Master of the ship or contact details of company representative)	
To: (Nearest coastal state and flag state)	
Position of Container Loss: (Lat/Long or true bearing and distance from a known landmark. This should be either: a) the position the containers were known to be lost, b) the estimated position if the actual position is not known, or c) if an estimated position is unknown – the ship's position when the container loss was discovered)	
Total/estimated number of container(s) lost: (Once a thorough inspection can be conducted, a verified number of lost containers shall be reported and marked as "final")	
Type of goods in freight container(s):	
Dangerous Goods: (Yes or No)	UN Number(s) if known:
Description of lost container(s):	
Dimensions of container(s): (e.g. 20 foot)	
Type(s): (e.g. reefer)	Total/estimated number of empty container(s):
Further relevant information if available:	
Cargo description according to dangerous goods manifest (if applicable):	
Description of any cargo spill:	
Wind direction and speed:	
Sea current direction and speed:	
Sea state and wave height:	
Estimated drift direction and speed of lost container(s):	
Other relevant information:	

TABLE 2	
Type of Report: Observation of freight container(s) drifting at sea	
Time (UTC):	Date:
IMO No:	Call Sign:
Ship Name:	MMSI No:
From: (Master of the ship)	
To: (Nearest coastal state to the position of observation)	
Time (UTC) and Date drifting containers observed:	
Position container(s) observed: (Lat/Long or true bearing and distance from a known landmark)	
Total number of container(s) observed:	
Further relevant information if available:	
Dimensions of container(s): (e.g. 20 foot):	
Type(s) of container observed: (e.g. reefer):	
Description of any cargo spill:	
Wind direction and speed:	
Sea current direction and speed:	
Sea state and wave height:	
Estimated drift direction and speed of observed container(s):	
Other relevant information:	