

The Load Lines Convention and Arctic Navigation

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This presentation updates earlier work of the CMI's International Working Group for Polar Shipping since CMI Hamburg 2014. In 2014-2015 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted the Polar Code and important amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended and International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973/78, as amended. The Polar Code provides for new international standards and rules for polar shipping to become effective on 1 January 2017. The Code has not addressed load lines for ships. The International Convention on Load Lines (LLC), 1966, as amended, is a key maritime safety instrument establishing rules for the limits of loading of ships on international voyages and does not contain an annex dedicated to polar shipping, unlike the case of other maritime trading regions. The presentation explains the implications of what appears to be a gap in maritime safety regulation for polar shipping. The presentation concludes with the recommendation that the Comité Maritime International consider advising the IMO to study the LLC Convention with regard to its application to polar shipping and whether the development of a dedicated polar annex is appropriate.