

# **RULES OF NAVIGATION**

## **REGULATIONS FOR NAVIGATION ON THE SEAWAYS OF THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE**

Approved by the USSR Minister of Merchant Marine 14 September 1990

These Regulations were worked out in accordance with the USSR Council of Ministers Decision No 565 of 1 June 1990, with due regard to the relevant provisions of the Soviet legislation and rules of international law.

### ***1. Definitions.***

The terms and phrases listed below shall have the following meaning when cited in the text:

1.1. The Regulations - these Regulations for Navigation on the Seaways of the Northern Sea Route the official text of which is published in the Notices to Mariners.

1.2. The Northern Sea Route – national transportation route of the USSR, which is situated within the inland waters, territorial sea (territorial waters), or exclusive economic zone adjoining the USSR northern coast, and includes seaways suitable for guiding ships in ice. the extreme points of which *in the west* are the western entrances to the Novaya Zemlya straits and the meridian running from Mys Zhelaniya northward. and in the east, in the Bering Strait, by the parallel 66°N and the meridian 168°58'37"W.

1.3. The Administration - Administration of the Northern Sea Route of the USSR Ministry of Merchant Marine, established by the USSR Council of Ministers Decision No. 683 of 16 September 1971, and having its domicile at 1/4 Rozhdestvenka, Moscow, 103759, USSR.

1.4. Vessel - any ship, or other craft regardless of her nationality.

1.5. Special requirements - technical and operational rates and standards as set forth in publications issued by the Administration in addition to the Regulations, including the Guide to Navigation through the Northern Sea Route and the Requirements for the Design of equipment, and Supply of Vessels Navigating the Northern Sea Route.

1.6. Administration Representative(s) - the Head, Deputy Head, Chief State Inspectors, or State Inspectors of the Administration as well as officials of Marine Operations Headquarters and other persons authorized by the Administration to exercise specific functions within its competence.

1.7. Marine Operations Headquarters - special navigational services of the Murmansk and Far East Shipping Companies, directly performing ice operations on the Northern Sea Route, under the general co-ordination by the Administration.

### ***2. Principles, subject, and goals of regulating***

The Regulations shall, on the basis of non-discrimination for vessels of all States, regulate navigation through the Northern Sea Route for purposes of ensuring safe navigation and preventing, reducing, and keeping under control Marine environment pollution from vessels. since the specifically severe climatic conditions that exist in the Arctic Regions and the presence of ice during the larger part of the year bring about obstacles, or increased danger, to navigation while pollution of sea, or the northern coast of the USSR might cause great harm to the ecological balance or upset it irreparably, as well as inflict damage on the interests and well-being of the peoples of the Extreme North.

### ***3. Request for guiding through the route***

3.1. The Owner, or Master of a vessel intending to navigate through the Northern Sea Route shall submit to the Administration (Marine Operations Headquarters) a notification and a request for guiding through the Northern Sea Route in compliance with form and deadlines indicated on page 85 and to guarantee the payment for the icebreakers assistance.

3.2. The Administration (Marine Operations Headquarters) shall consider a request and inform a sender of the possibility of guiding through the Route and other circumstances to be taken into consideration by the Owner, or Master.

#### **4. Requirements to vessels and their commanding personnel**

A vessel intending to navigate the Northern Sea Route shall satisfy special requirements and her Master, or a person replacing him, shall be experienced in operating a vessel in ice.

In case where these persons have no such experience, or when Master requests so, the Administration (Marine Operations Headquarters) may assign a State Pilot to the vessel to assist in guiding her through the Northern Sea Route.

#### **5. Due Security of liability**

It should not be permitted to navigate the Northern Sea route to vessels that have not aboard a certificate of due financial security with respect to the civil liability of the Owner for damage inflicted by polluting marine environment and the northern coast of the USSR

#### **6. Check**

6.1. In cases of unfavourable ice, navigational, hydrographic, weather, and other conditions endangering a vessel, or if there is a threat of polluting marine environment, or the USSR northern coast, a representative of the Administration may carry out an inspection of a vessel while she navigates the Northern Sea Route.

6.2. In case where there is a threat of polluting marine environment, or the USSR northern coast, inspections of vessels may be also carried out by representatives of other Soviet state bodies authorized to do so.

6.3. At the discretion of a representative of the Administration inspections may include examination of documents certifying a vessel compliance with special requirements, cargo documents and, depending upon the particular circumstances, direct examination of a vessel's condition, its equipment, facilities, technical navigational aids, preparedness and ability to fulfill requirements concerning prevention of marine pollution.

6.4. Master of a vessel shall be obliged to render necessary assistance to the Administration Representative in order that examinations should be completed in the most comprehensive and prompt way.

#### **7. Order of navigation**

7.1. The guiding of vessels through the seaways of the Northern Sea Route shall be performed during the navigational period, the beginning and the end of which shall be determined by the Administration and Marine Operations Headquarters in consideration of forecasted and the actual state of ice, navigational, hydrographic weather, and other conditions.

7.2. Vessel accepted for guiding through the Northern Sea Route shall follow the seaway assigned her and keep to the tracks recommended by the Marine Operations Headquarters.

7.3. Master of a vessel navigating the Northern Sea Route shall be obliged to carry out orders from the Marine Operations Headquarters concerning correction the route due to changes in ice conditions and to other circumstances capable of affecting the safety of navigation, or bringing about a threat to the ecological situation.

7.4. Mandatory icebreaker guiding of vessels with ice pilot on board each vessel is established in the Proliv Vil'kitskogo, Proliv Shokal'skogo, Proliv Dmitriya Lapteva, and Proliv Sannikova" due to unfavourable navigational situation and ice conditions and for the purpose of ensuring safe navigation.

In other regions the Marine Operations Headquarters shall, in consideration of ensuring safe navigation and for the purpose of providing the most favourable navigating conditions, prescribe one of the following types of guiding:

- 1) Guiding from shore along recommended routes up to a certain geographic point;
- 2) Airplane, or helicopter guiding;
- 3) Conventional pilotage;
- 4) Icebreaker guiding;
- 5) Icebreaker guiding combined with conventional pilotage of vessels.

The Marine Operations Headquarters shall be entitled to substitute one type of guiding for another.

7.5. Master of a vessel navigating the Northern Sea Route shall be obliged to maintain a contact with a Radio Center of the appropriate Marine Operations Headquarters, depending upon the geographical position of a vessel.

### **8. Control of navigation**

8.1. Navigation of vessels accepted for guiding through the Northern Sea Route shall be organized and controlled by the Administration via the Marine Operations Headquarters.

8.2. Navigation of vessels through the seaways of the Northern Sea Route shall be organized and controlled by the following authorities<sup>1</sup>:

- 1) In the western part, up to the meridian 125°E, by the West Marine Operations Headquarters in the port of Dikson;
- 2) In the eastern part, E of the meridian 125° E, by the East Marine Operations Headquarters at the port of Pevek.

8.3. Marine Operations Headquarters (the Administration) shall provide that vessels be supplied with navigational information, guiding and rescue services.

8.4. When navigating the Northern Sea Route, payment for the services rendered to vessels by the Marine Operations Headquarters and the Administration shall be collected in accordance with the duly established rates.

### **9. Suspension of navigation**

In cases where an obvious necessity of environment protection or safe navigation dictates so, the Administration, or Marine Operations Headquarters, can suspend navigation of vessels on specific parts of the Northern Sea Route for the period during which there exist the circumstances that have caused such a measure.

### **10. Removal of vessels off the route**

If a vessel navigating the Northern Sea Route violates provisions of these Regulation, in particular Regulations 3 and 4 she can be removed from the Route.

Direction in which a vessel will leave the Route shall be determined by Marine Operations Headquarters in consideration of the safety of the vessel, its crew and cargo, and necessary measures of nature protection.

### **11. Liability**

The Administration and the Marine Operations Headquarters shall not be liable for damage inflicted on a vessel, or property on board, by guiding in ice conditions unless it is proved they are culpable for the damage inflicted.

### **12. Notification**

Additionally to the existing requirements concerning reports on marine environment pollution, master of a vessel navigating the Northern Sea Route shall promptly inform the Administration Representative of any fact of pollutant discharge, as effected by that vessel, or detected by her.