WHAT DOES THE POLAR CODE MEAN FOR SHIP SAFETY?

**EQUIPMENT**
- WINDOWS ON BRIDGE: Means to clear melted ice, freezing rain, snow, mist, spray and condensation.
- LIFEOATS: All lifeboats to be partially or totally enclosed type.
- CLOTHING I: Adequate thermal protection for all persons on board.
- CLOTHING II: On passenger ships, an immersion suit or a thermal protective aid for each person on board.
- ICE REMOVAL: Special equipment for ice removal; such as electrical and pneumatic devices, special tools such as axes or wooden clubs.
- FIRE SAFETY: Extinguishing equipment operable in cold temperatures; protect from ice; suitable for persons wearing bulky and cumbersome cold weather gear.

**OPERATIONS & MANNING**
- NAVIGATION: Receive information about ice conditions.
- CERTIFICATE & MANUAL: Required to have on board a Polar Ship Certificate and the ship’s Polar Water Operational Manual.
- TRAINING: Masters, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch must have completed appropriate basic training (for open-water operations), and advanced training for other waters, including ice.

**DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION**
- SHIP CATEGORIES: Three categories of ship which may operate in Polar Waters, based on:
  - A: medium first-year ice
  - B: thin first-year ice
  - C: open waters/ice conditions less severe than A and B
- MATERIALS: Ships intended to operate in low air temperature must be constructed with materials suitable for operation at the ship's polar service temperature.
- STRUCTURE: In ice strengthened ships, the structure of the ship must be able to resist both global and local structural loads.
- INTACT STABILITY: Sufficient stability in intact condition when subject to ice accretion and the stability calculations must take into account the icing allowance.

**BACKGROUND INFO**
- THE INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR SHIPS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS WAS ADOPTED NOVEMBER 2014 BY THE IMO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE.
- IT APPLIES TO SHIPS OPERATING IN ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC WATERS.
- THE AIM IS TO PROVIDE FOR SAFE SHIP OPERATION AND THE PROTECTION OF THE POLAR ENVIRONMENT BY ADDRESSING RISKS PRESENT IN POLAR WATERS AND NOT ADEQUATELY MITIGATED BY OTHER INSTRUMENTS.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION