

Manual of Regulations and Guidelines Relevant to Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area

Synoptic digital version, updated June 2023

The first edition of this manual was prepared by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties through the work of a group of Informal Discussions on the elaboration of a Manual of Regulations and Guidelines Relevant to Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities, and compiled by the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat, in accordance to Decision 6 (2019). The Secretariat systematically updates this Manual according to new Measures, Resolutions or Decisions applicable to tourism activities adopted by Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCM).

Introduction

a) Background

Based on a proposal contained in WP 51¹ submitted to ATCM XLII (2019), the Parties agreed, through [Decision 6 \(2019\)](#), to elaborate a “*Manual of Regulations and Guidelines Relevant to Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area*” and to task the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS) with compiling, producing and making the Manual available to them. The Parties assisted the Secretariat in this task through an online forum hosted on the Secretariat's website. Decision 6 (2019) also stated that the Manual would be a digital document.

The Manual is available in the following formats:

- A “synoptic digital” version, containing only the name of each provision and a hyperlink to its full text
- A “ready to print” version, containing the same provisions, along with explanatory texts, and the full provisions in an appendix; and
- A leaflet, intended to provide vessel-based operators with a synoptic and user-friendly tool.

Finally, through [Decision 6 \(2021\)](#) the Parties agreed to make available the Manual (on its two versions and a Tourist Leaflet) on the ATS website. And, consistent with Decision 6 (2019), all these three materials will be simultaneously updated by the Secretariat upon request from the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM).

b) General Principles

¹ WP51 *Compiling a manual on tourism and non-governmental activities in Antarctica* – France, Argentina, United States – ATCM XLII, 2019

The manual is intended to be a practical tool making it easier for users to access the different applicable provisions. This manual gathers in a single document, all relevant documents addressing tourism and non-governmental activities.

The manual also refers to texts that have been adopted outside of the Antarctic Treaty System and have an impact on Antarctic activities (for example, the SOLAS Convention, the MARPOL Convention, the Polar Code, etc.). A list of these texts is included in this Manual, with links to the relevant external websites, which direct the reader to the relevant authorities responsible for updating those texts.

In order to facilitate updates and access, this Manual is accessible on the ATS's website in .pdf version and will be periodically updated by the Secretariat.

This Manual does not offer or represent an official interpretation of the underlying instruments or alter the referenced source material. As a courtesy, it is provided as a practical tool for visitors to and operators in the Antarctic Treaty region.

c) Goals of the Manual

The overall goal of the manual is to improve knowledge of – and therefore compliance with – the provisions applicable to tourism and non-governmental activities in the Antarctic.

The document is intended for a wide target audience, given the risks of conflicts of use in the Treaty area. This includes National competent authorities; tour operators and visitors; and other stakeholders.

Likewise, specific goals of this manual include, *inter alia*, to:

- Improve the accessibility of texts (by compiling them in a single document)
- Identify obsolete or redundant provisions for the ATCM to consider deleting through existing procedures

d) Current provisions applicable to Antarctic tourism

The current source of provisions applicable to Antarctic tourist activities consists in the first place on the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty System, which include the Antarctic Treaty, the Madrid Protocol and its Annexes, as well as the many Measures, Decisions and Resolutions (and, previous to 1995, also Recommendations)² adopted at ATCMs that deal directly with tourism-related issues or that have an impact on these activities. In addition, because the vast majority of Antarctic tour activities is currently ship-based,

² After Decision 1 (1995), measures adopted by the ATCM (previously called "Recommendations") were divided into three categories: "Measures", "Decisions" and "Resolutions". Measures, Decisions and Resolutions, which are adopted at the ATCM by consensus, give effect to the principles of the Antarctic Treaty and the Environment Protocol and provide regulations and guidelines for the management of the Antarctic Treaty area and the work of the ATCM. Decisions, which address internal organizational matters of the ATCM, and Resolutions, which are hortatory texts, are not legally binding on Contracting Parties. In contrast, Measures are legally binding on the Consultative Parties once they have been approved by all Consultative Parties.

relevant provisions come also from international instruments under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Therefore, the following sources have been used:

- 1- The Antarctic Treaty states that Antarctica shall be used for peaceful purposes only (Art. I) and stipulates that each Contracting Party shall inform the other Contracting Parties, and thereafter shall give them notice in advance, of all expeditions to Antarctica organized in or proceeding from its territory (Art.VII.5).
- 2- The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (and its Annexes) is applicable to tourism. After the Protocol, activities in the Antarctic are subject to a number of obligations and procedures related to Environmental Impact Assessment, protection of fauna and flora, waste management, marine pollution from ships, and protected areas.
- 3- A number of ATS provisions also apply to tourism as they do to any other activity south of 60°S Latitude. These include, for instance, requirements for exchanging information and guidelines on different matters attached to provisions adopted by the ATCM³.
- 4- The ATS provisions specifically applicable to tourism consists of, generally speaking, codes of conduct or behavioural guidelines and reporting requirements connected to the exchange of information system in place within the ATS. Other issues covered by ATS regulatory provisions applicable to tourism operations also include guidance and tools to assist in the conduct of different aspects of tourist activities. These provisions adopted the form of Recommendations (up to 1995), Measures, Resolutions and Decisions (as of 1995), depending on its nature.
- 5- Finally, relevant provisions come also from IMO agreements, including the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL, 1973/78), the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS, 1974), the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW, 1978/1995), and the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (the Polar Code⁴), which is mandatory under both together SOLAS and MARPOL Conventions (<http://www.imo.org>). Among these provisions, the IMO's "Enhanced contingency planning guidance for passenger ships operating in areas remote from Search and Rescue facilities" (MSC.1/Circ/1184) is also relevant as [Resolution 6 \(2008\)](#) recommends that Parties encourage operators of tourist vessels to consider this measure in planning their activities.

³ For example, *Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment, Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area and Guidelines for the Operation of Aircraft Near Concentrations of Birds in Antarctica*, among others. Be aware that some of these guidelines and other guidance material might be revised and updated on a periodical basis by the ATCM.

⁴ *The Polar Code, adopted in November 2014, covers the full range of design, construction, equipment, operational, training, search and rescue and environmental protection matters relevant to ships operating in waters surrounding the two poles.*

e) General structure and content

The present Manual is divided into three main sections: one containing provisions addressed primarily to National Competent Authorities –NCAs- (Section A), another with those relating to tour operators (Section B) and the third one (Section C) addresses both NCA and Tour operators and contains references to legal instruments adopted outside the ATCM framework. This three-section format is intended to allow for an easier and quicker accessibility of the Manual.

In turn, Sections A and B are divided into three chapters. The first three chapters (numbered A.1 to A.3 in Section A, and B.1 to B.3 in Section B) are structured around the steps usually followed by an activity in Antarctica and incorporate references to all the ATCM provisions related to Tourism and Non-Governmental activities that apply to each group of main users (NCAs and tour operators, respectively).

Finally, Appendix 1 contains a full list of the ATCM provisions included in the Manual.

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SECTION A: National Competent Authorities

Chapter A.1: Planning the activity

a) General considerations about Antarctic Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities

[Resolution 7 \(2009\) General Principles of Antarctic Tourism](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. section d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#) and [Chapter A.2. section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1, sections a\) General Considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities, d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#) and [Chapter B.2, section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#).

[Resolution 5 \(2007\) Long-term effects of tourism](#)

[Resolution 11 \(2012\) Checklist for visitors' in-field activities](#)

[Resolution 5 \(2022\) Permanent facilities for tourism and other non-governmental activities in Antarctica](#)

b) Information Exchange and Advance Notifications Requirements

[Antarctic Treaty](#)

See its Article VII.5, and, as this requirement was later elaborated in various measures of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, you should also [see below](#) *Decision 4 (2023)* and *Resolution 3 (1997)*

[Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty](#)

See in particular its Article 17: Annual Report by Parties

[Recommendation XVIII-1 \(1994\) Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#)

Attachment A of this recommendation details the information organisers should provide to the appropriate national authorities in advance to the start of their operations in Antarctica. Such information should be reported in a standard form, according to *Resolution 3 (1997) Standard form for advance notification and post-visit reporting on Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities*.

[Resolution 3 \(1997\) Standard form for advance notification and post-visit reporting on Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#)

See Section on Advance Notifications.

[Resolution 6 \(2010\) Improving the co-ordination of maritime search and rescue in the Antarctic Treaty area](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the Activity, section g\) Reporting Requirements](#)

[Decision 4 \(2023\) Updated requirements for Information Exchange](#)

See particularly Section 1.1.2 Non-Governmental Expeditions, and, if applicable, Section 1.2. Visits to Protected Areas.

This Decision also applies to [Chapter A.3. After the expedition, section a\) Information Exchange Requirements](#)

c) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments⁵

[Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty](#)

See in particular Article 3: Environmental Principles, and Article 8: Environmental Impact Assessment. Also please check its Annexes:

[Annex I to the Protocol: Environmental Impact Assessment;](#)

As Annexes II to V to the Protocol contain key elements that should be carefully considered when preparing an EIA⁶, references to them are included below.

[Annex II: Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora](#)

[Annex III: Waste Disposal and Waste Management](#)

[Annex IV: Prevention of Marine Pollution](#)

[Annex V: Area Protection and Management](#)

Specific provisions of these five Annexes applicable to Antarctic Tourism are included again in appropriate sections of this Manual.

⁵ The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat keeps an Environmental Impact Assessment database which can be visited at: <https://www.ats.aq/devAS/EP/EIAList?lang=e>

⁶ These Annexes establish that certain activities are prohibited or regulated, while others require a permit issued by National appropriate authorities before proceeding.

[Resolution 1 \(2016\) Revised Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment in Antarctica.](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessment.](#)

[Resolution 9 \(2012\) The Assessment of Land-Based Expeditionary Activities](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessment.](#)

[Resolution 3 \(2004\) Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities: Enhanced Cooperation amongst Parties](#)

[Resolution 6 \(2014\) Toward a Risk-based Assessment of Tourism and Non-governmental Activities](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2018\) Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems \(RPAS\) in Antarctica](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; section f\) Air operations](#) and [Chapter A.2. During the Activity, sections c\) Air Operations, and d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions Concerning Environmental Impact Assessments, f\) Air Operations, and Chapter B.2. During the activity, sections c\) Air Operations and d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2016\) Non-native Species Manual](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the Activity, section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments](#) and [Chapter B.2. During the Activity, Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

d) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance

[Resolution 6 \(2008\) Enhancing the role of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres with Search and Rescue Regions in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

This resolution is connected to the IMO's "Enhanced contingency planning guidance for passenger ships operating in areas remote from SAR facilities" ([MSC.1/Circ/1184](#)).

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the Activity, section g\) Reporting requirements](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity. Section d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#), and [Chapter B.2. During the activity. Section g\) Reporting requirements](#).

[Measure 4 \(2004\) Insurance and Contingency Planning for Tourism and Non-governmental Expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

See footnote ⁷ on the entry into force of Measure 4 (2004)

[Resolution 6 \(2017\) Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Section d\) Issues related to Emergency and Contingency Plans, Safety and Insurance](#)

[Resolution 7 \(2009\) General Principles of Antarctic Tourism](#)

See General Principle #5, specifically related to safety issues.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1, section a\) General Considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#) and [Chapter A.2. Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1, sections a\) General Considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities, d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#) and [Chapter B.2, section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#).

e) Yachting Activities

[Resolution 10 \(2012\) Yachting Guidelines](#)

This resolution incorporates two different elements: the [Checklist of yacht specific items for preparing safe Antarctic voyages](#), which is attached to the Resolution, and the [Yachting Guidelines for Antarctic Cruises](#), placed on the ATS website, by request of the Resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Section e\) Yachting activities](#)

[Resolution 1 \(2003\) Advice to vessel and yacht operators](#)

f) Air operations

[Resolution 3 \(2022\) Air Safety in Antarctica](#)

⁷ Measure 4 (2004) is currently not yet in force, as its approval is still pending by a number of Parties. By the time it was agreed, the Parties, aware of the fact that some time would be needed to this Measure to enter into force and desiring to promote its objectives and principles, adopted Resolution 4 (2004) "Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area", which were later superseded by Resolution 6 (2017).

See in particular points 6 and 7 of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the activity, section c\) Air Operations](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the activity. Section f\) Air Operations](#) and [Chapter B.2. During the Activity. Section c\) Air Operations](#)

[Recommendation X-8 \(1979\) Effects of tourists and non-government expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

See in particular point IV of this recommendation (Commercial Overflights in Antarctica)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the activity. Section f\) Air Operations](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2018\) Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems \(RPAS\) in Antarctica](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments](#) and [Chapter A.2. During the Activity, sections c\) Air Operations, and d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions Concerning Environmental Impact Assessments, f\) Air Operations, and Chapter B.2. During the activity, sections c\) Air Operations and d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2023\) Urgent measures to be taken with respect to certain tourist and non-governmental activities](#)

See in particular point 1.b. of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking, c\) Air operations and d\) Provisions for the protection of Fauna and Flora; Chapter B1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations; and Chapter B.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking, c\) Air operations and d\) Provisions for the protection of Fauna and Flora](#)

Chapter A.2: During the activity

a) *Guidelines for visitors*

[Resolution 2 \(2022\) Site Guidelines for Visitors](#)

To download specific Site Guidelines for Visitors please visit:
<https://www.ats.ag/devAS/Ats/VisitorSiteGuidelines?lang=e>

This Resolution also applies to the following section b) [Disembarking](#)

b) *Disembarking*

[Resolution 4 \(2023\) Urgent measures to be taken with respect to certain tourist and non-governmental activities](#)

See in particular point 1.a. of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations](#); [Chapter A.2. During the activity; sections c\) Air operations and d\) Provisions for the protection of Fauna and Flora](#); [Chapter B.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations](#); and [Chapter B.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking, c\) Air operations and d\) Provisions for the protection of Fauna and Flora](#)

[Measure 15 \(2009\) Landing of Persons from Passenger Vessels in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

Note that Measure 15 (2009) is currently not yet in force as its approval is still pending by a number of Parties. It was adopted after Resolution 4 (2007), which contains a very similar text (see below).

[Resolution 4 \(2007\) Ship-based Tourism in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the Activity. Section b\) Disembarking](#)

[Resolution 2 \(2022\) Site Guidelines for Visitors](#)

See in particular the recommendations made in relevant sections “Landing Requirements”, “Visitor Area” (including zoning schemes, such as Landing, Closed and Guided Walking areas) and “Visitor code of conduct” of each Guideline.

To download specific Site Guidelines for Visitors please visit:
<https://www.ats.ag/devAS/Ats/VisitorSiteGuidelines?lang=e>

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the Activity; section a\) Guidelines for visitors](#)

c) *Air operations*

Resolution 3 (2022) Air Safety in Antarctica

See in particular points 6 and 7 of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air Operations](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the activity. Section f\) Air Operations](#) and [Chapter B.2. During the Activity. Section c\) Air Operations](#)

Resolution 2 (2004) Guidelines for the Operation of Aircraft Near Concentrations of Birds in Antarctica

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the activity, section d\) Provisions for the Protection of Fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity. Section f\) Air Operations](#) and [Chapter B.2. Section d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

Resolution 4 (2018) Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments](#) and [f\) Air Operations](#); and [Chapter A.2. During the Activity, section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions Concerning Environmental Impact Assessments, f\) Air Operations](#), and [Chapter B.2. During the activity, sections c\) Air Operations](#) and [d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

Resolution 4 (2023) Urgent measures to be taken with respect to certain tourist and non-governmental activities

See in particular point 1.b. of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations](#); [Chapter A.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking](#) and [d\) Provisions for the protection of Fauna and Flora](#); [Chapter B.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations](#); and [Chapter B.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking, c\) Air operations](#) and [d\) Provisions for the protection of Fauna and Flora](#)

d) *Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora*

Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty

See in particular Article 3.2 (Environmental Principles) and Annex II to the Protocol (Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora)

[Resolution 7 \(2009\) General Principles of Antarctic Tourism](#)

See General Principle #2, in reference to Antarctic wildlife.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1, sections a\) General considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#) and [d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1, sections a\) General Considerations about Tourism and Non- Governmental Activities, d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#) and [Chapter B.2, section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#).

[Resolution 2 \(2004\) Guidelines for the Operation of Aircraft Near Concentrations of Birds in Antarctica](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air Operations](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity. Section f\) Air Operations](#) and [Chapter B.2. Section d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2018\) Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems \(RPAS\) in Antarctica](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments](#) and [f\) Air Operations](#); and [Chapter A.2. During the Activity, section c\) Air Operations](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions Concerning Environmental Impact Assessments, f\) Air Operations, and Chapter B.2. During the activity, sections c\) Air Operations](#) and [d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2023\) Urgent measures to be taken with respect to certain tourist and non-governmental activities](#)

See in particular point 1.b. of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations](#); [Chapter A.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking and c\) Air operations](#); [Chapter B1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations](#); and [Chapter B.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking, c\) Air operations](#) and [d\) Provisions for the protection of Fauna and Flora](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2016\) Non-native Species Manual](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessment](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments](#) and [Chapter B.2. During the Activity, Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

[Resolution 3 \(2006\) *Ballast Water Exchange in the Antarctic Treaty Area*](#)

This resolution is linked to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Waters and Sediments, 2004 (IMO Ballast Water Management Convention), which was adopted in February, 2004, and entered into force in September, 2017.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the activity. Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

e) Provisions related to waste management and marine pollution

[Annex III to the Protocol: *Waste Disposal and Waste Management*](#)

[Annex IV to the Protocol: *Prevention of Marine Pollution*](#)

[Resolution 5 \(2019\) *Reducing Plastic Pollution in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean*](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the activity. Section e\) Provisions related to Waste Management and Marine Pollution](#)

f) Provisions related to protected areas, historic sites and monuments, and historic remains⁸

[Annex V to the Protocol: *Area Protection and Management*](#)

[Resolution 5 \(2001\) *Guidelines for handling of pre-1958 historic remains whose existence or present location is not yet known*](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. Section f\) Provisions related to protected areas, historic sites and monuments and historic remains.](#)

[Resolution 3 \(2009\) *Guidelines for the designation and protection of Historic Sites and Monuments*](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. Section f\) Provisions related to protected areas, historic sites and monuments and historic remains.](#)

g) Reporting Requirements

[Resolution 6 \(2008\) *Enhancing the role of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres with Search and Rescue Regions in the Antarctic Treaty Area*](#)

⁸ The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat keeps an Antarctic Protected Areas Database, containing the texts of the management plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas, their legal status, location in the Antarctic continent and a summary of the purpose of designation. It also contains information related to the list and location of Historic Sites and Monuments in Antarctica. The Antarctic Protected Areas Database can be visited at: <https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database>

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity, section d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity. Section d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#), and [Chapter B.2. During the activity. Section g\) Reporting requirements](#).

Resolution 6 (2010) Improving the co-ordination of maritime search and rescue in the Antarctic Treaty area

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity, section b\) Information Exchange and Advance Notification Requirements](#)

Chapter A.3: After the expedition

a) Information Exchange Requirements

Since 2012 these requirements are implemented through the Electronic Information Exchange System (EIES), a central repository maintained by the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat, in accordance with the Antarctic Treaty and the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and its annexes.

[Decision 4 \(2023\) Updated requirements for Information Exchange](#)

See particularly Section 2.2.2 Non-Governmental Expeditions, and, if applicable, Section 2.3.1. Visits to Protected Areas.

This Decision also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity; section b\) Information Exchange and Advance Notification Requirements](#)

[Resolution 6 \(2022\) Revised standard Post Visit Site Report Form](#)

The inclusion of this Resolution is to remind NCAs to require Tour Operators to use the PVR Form attached to it.

[Resolution 7 \(2012\) Vessel Safety in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

SECTION B: TOUR OPERATORS

Chapter B.1: Planning the activity

a) *General considerations about Antarctic Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities*

At a planning stage, those intending to organize tourism activities in Antarctica should refer to relevant domestic instruments concerning environmental impact assessments and the provision of information to their National Competent Authorities. They should also take into account:

[Recommendation XVIII-1 \(1994\) Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#)

This Recommendation also applies to [Chapter B.2, sections d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#), and [e\) Provisions related to waste management and marine pollution](#)

[Resolution 7 \(2009\) General Principles of Antarctic Tourism](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Section d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#)", [Chapter B.2. Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Section a\) General considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Expeditions](#), [d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#), and [Chapter A.2. Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#).

b) *Information Exchange and Advance Notifications Requirements*

[Resolution 3 \(1997\) Standard form for advance notification and post-visit reporting on Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#)

See Section on Advance Notifications.

c) *Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments*⁹

[Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty](#)

[Annex I to the Protocol: Environmental Impact Assessment](#);

⁹ The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat keeps an Environmental Impact Assessment database which can be visited at: <https://www.ats.ag/devAS/EP/EIAList?lang=e>

As Annexes II to V to the Protocol contain key elements that should be carefully considered when preparing an EIA¹⁰, references to them are included below

[Annex II to the Protocol: Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora](#)

[Annex III to the Protocol: Waste Disposal and Waste Management](#)

[Annex IV to the Protocol: Prevention of Marine Pollution](#)

[Annex V to the Protocol: Area Protection and Management](#)

The references to the Environment Protocol and relevant annexes indicated above were included to allow operators understand the full suite of mandatory legal requirements, even though these are usually implemented via domestic legislation and are, to varying extents, captured in specific ATCM provisions agreed later (see below).

[Resolution 1 \(2016\) Revised Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment in Antarctica.](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessment.](#)

[Resolution 9 \(2012\) The Assessment of Land-Based Expeditionary Activities](#)

The attachment to this Resolution, “Questions to consider as part of the authorisation process for non-Governmental land-based activities in Antarctica”, might serve as a useful guidance for those planning to organise these kinds of activities.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessment](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2018\) Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems \(RPAS\) in Antarctica](#)

Check in particular Section “Pre-deployment Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) stage”.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; section f\) Air Operations,](#) and [Chapter B.2. During the activity, sections c\) Air Operations and d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

¹⁰ These Annexes establish that certain activities are prohibited or regulated, while others require a permit issued by National appropriate authorities before proceeding.

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions Concerning Environmental Impact Assessments, f\) Air Operations, and Chapter A.2. During the activity, sections c\) Air Operations and d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

Resolution 4 (2016) Non-native Species Manual

See in particular Section 3. Of the Manual: “Guidelines and resources to support prevention of the introduction of non-native species”, subsection “Prevention” (points 1 to 5)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the Activity, Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments and Chapter A.2. During the Activity, Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

d) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance

Resolution 6 (2008) Enhancing the role of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres with Search and Rescue Regions in the Antarctic Treaty Area

This resolution is connected to the IMO’s “Enhanced contingency planning guidance for passenger ships operating in areas remote from SAR facilities” (MSC.1/Circ/1184).

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the activity. Section g\) Reporting Requirements](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity. Section d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance, and Chapter A.2. During the activity. Section g\) Reporting requirements.](#)

Measure 4 (2004) Insurance and Contingency Planning for Tourism and Non-governmental Expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area

See footnote¹¹ on the entry into force of Measure 4 (2004)

Resolution 6 (2017) Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area

¹¹ Measure 4 (2004) is currently not yet in force, as its approval is still pending by a number of Parties. By the time it was agreed, the Parties, aware of the fact that some time would be needed to this Measure to enter into force and desiring to promote its objectives and principles, adopted Resolution 4 (2004) “Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area”, which were later superseded by Resolution 6 (2017).

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Section d\) Issues related to Emergency and Contingency Plans, Safety and Insurance](#)

Resolution 7 (2009) General Principles of Antarctic Tourism

See General Principle #5, specifically related to safety issues.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1, section a\) General Considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#) and [Chapter B.2. Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Section a\) General considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Expeditions, d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#), and [Chapter A.2. Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#).

e) Yachting Activities

Resolution 10 (2012) Yachting Guidelines

This resolution incorporates two different elements: the [Checklist of yacht specific items for preparing safe Antarctic voyages](#), which is attached to the Resolution, and the [Yachting Guidelines for Antarctic Cruises](#), placed on the ATS website, by request of the Resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. section e\) Yachting activities](#)

Resolution 1 (2003) Advice to vessel and yacht operators

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Section e\) Yachting activities](#)

f) Air operations

Resolution 4 (2023) Urgent measures to be taken with respect to certain tourist and non-governmental activities

See in particular point 1.b. of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations](#); [Chapter A.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking, c\) Air operations](#) and [d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#); and [Chapter B.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking, c\) Air operations](#) and [d\) Provisions for the protection of Fauna and Flora](#)

Resolution 3 (2022) Air Safety in Antarctica

See in particular points 6 and 7 of this resolution.

This resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the activity, Section c\) Air Operations](#). In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity. Section f\) Air Operations](#) and [Chapter A.2. During the Activity. Section c\) Air Operations](#)

[Recommendation X-8 \(1979\) Effects of tourists and non-government expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

See point IV of this recommendation (Commercial Overflights in Antarctica)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity. Section f\) Air Operations](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2018\) Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems \(RPAS\) in Antarctica](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments](#) and [Chapter B.2. During the Activity, sections c\) Air Operations, and d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions Concerning Environmental Impact Assessments, f\) Air Operations, and Chapter A.2. During the activity, sections c\) Air Operations and d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

Chapter B.2: During the activity

a) *Guidelines for visitors*

[Resolution 4 \(2021\) General Guidelines and Site Guidelines Checklist for Visitors to the Antarctic](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the Activity, section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora, e\) Provisions related to Waste Management and Marine Pollution and Section f\) Provisions related to protected areas, historic sites and monuments and historic remains](#)

[Resolution 2 \(2022\) Site Guidelines for Visitors](#)

To download specific Site Guidelines for visitors please visit: <https://www.ats.aq/devAS/Ats/VisitorSiteGuidelines?lang=e>

This Resolution also applies to the following [section b\) Disembarking](#)

b) *Disembarking*

[Resolution 4 \(2023\) Urgent measures to be taken with respect to certain tourist and non-governmental activities](#)

See in particular point 1.a. of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations; Chapter A.2. During the activity; sections \[b\\) Disembarking\]\(#\), \[c\\) Air operations\]\(#\) and \[d\\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora\]\(#\); Chapter B1. Planning the activity, section \[f\\) Air operations\]\(#\); and Chapter B.2. During the activity; sections \[c\\) Air operations\]\(#\) and \[d\\) Provisions for the protection of Fauna and Flora\]\(#\)](#)

[Measure 15 \(2009\) Landing of Persons from Passenger Vessels in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

Note that Measure 15 (2009) is currently not yet in force as its approval is still pending by a number of Parties. It was adopted after Resolution 4 (2007), which contains a very similar text (see below).

[Resolution 4 \(2007\) Ship-based Tourism in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the Activity. Section b\) Disembarking](#)

[Resolution 2 \(2022\) Site Guidelines for Visitors](#)

See recommendations made in relevant sections “Landing Requirements”, “Visitor Area” (including zoning schemes, such as Landing, Closed and Guided Walking areas) and “Visitor code of conduct”. To download specific Site Guidelines for visitors please visit: <https://www.ats.aq/devAS/Ats/VisitorSiteGuidelines?lang=e>

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the Activity; section a\) Guidelines for visitors](#)

c) *Air operations*

Only for Antarctic tour activities that make use of aircraft (including also remotely piloted aircraft systems –RPAS- or, commonly called, “drones”)

[Resolution 4 \(2023\) Urgent measures to be taken with respect to certain tourist and non-governmental activities](#)

See in particular point 1.b. of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations](#); [Chapter A.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking, c\) Air operations and d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#); [Chapter B1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations](#); and [Chapter B.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking and d\) Provisions for the protection of Fauna and Flora](#)

[Resolution 3 \(2022\) Air Safety in Antarctica](#)

See in particular points 6 and 7 of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air Operations](#)

[Resolution 2 \(2004\) Guidelines for the Operation of Aircraft Near Concentrations of Birds in Antarctica](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the activity, section d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Section f\) Air Operations](#), and [Chapter A.2. Section d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2018\) Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems \(RPAS\) in Antarctica](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments and f\) Air Operations](#); and [Chapter B.2. During the Activity, section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions Concerning Environmental Impact Assessments, f\) Air Operations, and Chapter A.2. During the activity, sections c\) Air Operations and d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

d) *Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora*

[Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty](#)

[Annex II to the Protocol: Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora](#)

The references to the Environment Protocol and Annex II indicated above were included to allow operators understand the overall protection framework in place. The requirements stemmed from them are usually implemented via domestic legislation and are, to varying extents, captured in specific ATCM provisions agreed later (see below).

[Recommendation XVIII-1 \(1994\) Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#)

See in particular Section “Guidance for Visitors”, subsection A. protect Antarctic Wildlife

This Recommendation also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity, sections a\) General Considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#) and [Chapter B.2, section e\) Provisions related to waste management and marine pollution](#)

[Resolution 7 \(2009\) General Principles of Antarctic Tourism](#)

See General Principle #2, in reference to Antarctic wildlife.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1, sections a\) General considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#) and [d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Section a\) General considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Expeditions, d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#), and [Chapter A.2. Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#).

[Resolution 4 \(2021\) General Guidelines and Site Guidelines Checklist for Visitors to the Antarctic](#)

See Section “Protect Antarctic Wildlife”

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the Activity. Section a\) Guidelines for Visitors, e\) Provisions related to Waste Management and Marine Pollution](#) and [f\) Provisions related to protected areas, historic sites and monuments and historic remains](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2023\) Urgent measures to be taken with respect to certain tourist and non-governmental activities](#)

See in particular point 1.b. of this resolution.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations; Chapter A.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking, c\) Air operations](#) and [d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora; Chapter B1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air operations; and Chapter B.2. During the activity; sections b\) Disembarking and c\) Air operations](#)

[Resolution 2 \(2004\) Guidelines for the Operation of Aircraft Near Concentrations of Birds in Antarctica](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the activity, section f\) Air Operations](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Section f\) Air Operations](#), and [Chapter A.2. Section d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2018\) Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems \(RPAS\) in Antarctica](#)

See particularly Section 6. Operations over or near wildlife and Section, and Section 7. Operations over terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments and f\) Air Operations](#); and [Chapter B.2. During the Activity, section c\) Air Operations](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; sections c\) Provisions Concerning Environmental Impact Assessments, f\) Air Operations, and Chapter A.2. During the activity, sections c\) Air Operations and d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2016\) Non-native Species Manual](#)

Check in particular Section 3. Of the Manual: “Guidelines and resources to support prevention of the introduction of non-native species”, subsection “Prevention” (points 1 to 5)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity; section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments](#)

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity; section c\) Provisions concerning Environmental Impact Assessments and Chapter A.2. During the Activity, Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

[Resolution 3 \(2006\) Ballast Water Exchange in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

This resolution is linked to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Waters and Sediments, 2004 (IMO Ballast Water Management Convention), which was adopted in February, 2004, and entered into force in September, 2017.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the activity. Section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

e) Provisions related to waste management and marine pollution

[Annex III to the Protocol: Waste Disposal and Waste Management](#)

[Annex IV to the Protocol: Prevention of Marine Pollution](#)

Be aware that the legally binding requirements for waste disposal and management and marine pollution avoidance of Annexes III and IV are, in some jurisdictions, implemented through other (non-Antarctic specific) legislation and/or by other authorities

[Resolution 4 \(2021\) General Guidelines and Site Guidelines Checklist for Visitors to the Antarctic](#)

See Section “Keep Antarctica Pristine – Leave no trace of your visit”

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the Activity. Section a\) Guidelines for Visitors](#), [d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#); and [f\) Provisions related to protected areas, historic sites and monuments and historic remains](#)

[Recommendation XVIII-1 \(1994\) Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#)

See section “Key obligations on organisers and operators”, with regard to marine pollution.

This Recommendation also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity, sections a\) General Considerations about Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#) and [Chapter B.2, section d\) Provisions for the protection of fauna and flora](#)

[Resolution 5 \(2019\) Reducing Plastic Pollution in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the activity. Section e\) Provisions related to Waste Management and Marine Pollution](#)

f) Provisions related to protected areas, historic sites and monuments and historic remains¹²

[Annex V to the Protocol: Area Protection and Management](#)

Attention is drawn to the need to require permits to enter to certain protected areas, to protect historic values, and to comply with management plans, when applicable. Specific provisions related to protected areas and HSMs agreed later (see below) complements the framework provided by the Environment Protocol to such matters.

[Resolution 4 \(2021\) General Guidelines and Site Guidelines Checklist for Visitors to the Antarctic](#)

¹² The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat keeps an Antarctic Protected Areas Database containing the texts of the management plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas, their legal status, location in the Antarctic continent and a summary of the purpose of designation. It also contains information related to the list and location of Historic Sites and Monuments in Antarctica. The Antarctic Protected Areas Database can be visited at: <https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database>

See Section “Respect Protected Areas and Structures”

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.2. During the Activity. Section a\) Guidelines for Visitors](#), [d\) Provisions for the Protection of fauna and flora](#), and [e\) Provisions related to Waste Management and Marine Pollution](#)

[Resolution 5 \(2001\) Guidelines for handling of pre-1958 historic remains whose existence or present location is not yet known](#)

See points 4 and 7 of the Guidelines, on the need to notify discoveries and on the way to proceed in case there is uncertainty as to the age of a newly discovered historic artefact/site, respectively.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the Activity. Section f\) Protected Areas](#).

[Resolution 3 \(2009\) Guidelines for the designation and protection of Historic Sites and Monuments](#)

See in particular point 8 of the Guidelines, on the restrictions applying to historic objects.

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter A.2. During the Activity. Section f\) Protected Areas](#).

g) Reporting Requirements

[Resolution 6 \(2008\) Enhancing the role of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres with Search and Rescue Regions in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

This Resolution also applies to [Chapter B.1. Planning the Activity. Section d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#).

In addition, this Resolution applies to [Chapter A.1. Planning the Activity. Section d\) Issues related to emergency and contingency plans, safety and insurance](#), and [Chapter A.2. During the activity. Section g\) Reporting requirements](#).

Chapter B.3: After the expedition

a) *Information Exchange Requirements*

[Resolution 6 \(2022\) Revised standard Post Visit Site Report Form](#)

SECTION C: References to legal instruments adopted outside the ATCM framework

Besides the provisions applicable to Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities included in Measures, Decisions, Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the ATCM and those included in key instruments of the Antarctic Treaty System, and provided that the vast majority of Antarctic tour activities are ship-based, relevant provisions applicable to Antarctic tour operations come also from international instruments under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

These include the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL, 1973/78), the International Agreement Concerning Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS, 1974), the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW, 1978/1995). The International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (the Polar Code) and the “Enhanced contingency planning guidance for passenger ships operating in areas remote from SAR facilities” (MSC.1/Circ/1184) apply to Antarctic Tour operations as well.

The texts of MARPOL, SOLAS and STCW Conventions have been published by IMO. Below you can find a summary of their goals and contents. Contact your IMO National Delegate to have access to their full texts.

Regarding the Polar Code and the “Enhanced contingency planning guidance for passenger ships operating in areas remote from Search and Rescue facilities” (MSC.1/Circ/1184), a brief synthesis of each of them can be found below. Links to IMO’s web pages where you can download their full texts have also been included.

Contact your IMO National Delegate to have access to the most updated versions of these texts, and to any likely complementary provisions to them.

a) International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)

Adoption: 1973 (Convention), 1978 (1978 Protocol), 1997 (Protocol - Annex VI); Entry into force: 2 October 1983 (Annexes I and II).

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.

More information on MARPOL available at:

[https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-\(MARPOL\).aspx](https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-(MARPOL).aspx)

b) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974

Adoption: 1 November 1974; Entry into force: 25 May 1980

The SOLAS Convention in its successive forms is generally regarded as the most important of all international treaties concerning the safety of merchant ships. The main objective of the SOLAS Convention is to specify minimum standards for the construction, equipment and operation of ships, compatible with their safety.

More information on SOLAS available at:

[https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Safety-of-Life-at-Sea-\(SOLAS\)%2c-1974.aspx](https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Safety-of-Life-at-Sea-(SOLAS)%2c-1974.aspx)

c) International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW)

Adoption: 7 July 1978; Entry into force: 28 April 1984; Major revisions in 1995 and 2010

The 1978 STCW Convention prescribes minimum standards relating to training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers which countries are obliged to meet or exceed.

More information on STCW available at:

<https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/HumanElement/Pages/STCW-Conv-LINK.aspx>

d) International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (the Polar Code)

Adopted by Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its 94th session, by resolution MSC.385 (94), and by the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC), at its 68th session, by resolution MEPC.264 (68).

Entry into force: 1 January, 2017

Mandatory under both MARPOL and SOLAS Conventions.

The International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters –the Polar Code- has been developed to supplement existing IMO instruments in order to increase the safety of ships' operation and mitigate the impact on the people and environment in the remote, vulnerable and potentially harsh polar waters. The Polar Code contains recommendations and mandatory provisions on safety and on pollution prevention issues.

Full text of the Polar Code available at:

<https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Documents/POLAR%20CODE%20TEXT%20AS%20ADOPTED.pdf>

e) IMO's "Enhanced contingency planning guidance for passenger ships operating in areas remote from SAR facilities" (MSC.1/Circ/1184)

Approved by the Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-first session (10-19 May 2006).

Resolution 6 (2008) *Enhancing the role of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres with Search and Rescue Regions in the Antarctic Treaty Area* recommends that Parties, in accordance with their national laws, encourage operators of tourist vessels to consider this guidance in planning their activities.

The MSC.1/Circ/1184 describes the criteria for determining what constitutes an area remote from SAR Facilities and points out the enhancements needed to be made in relation to SAR co-operation planning arrangements, and to the assessment and planning of the risks of remote area operation.

Full text of the MSC.1/Circ/1184 available at:

<https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/OurWork/Safety/Documents/MSC.1-Circ.1184%20-%20Enhanced%20Contingency%20Planning%20Guidance%20For%20Passenger%20Ships%20Operating%20In%20Areas%20Remote.pdf>

Appendix 1: Full list of the provisions included in the Manual

a) *Antarctic Treaty and the Environment Protocol*

[Text of the Antarctic Treaty](#)

[Text of the Environment Protocol](#)

Annexes to the Environment Protocol

[Text of Annex I](#)

[Text of Annex II](#)

[Text of Annex III](#)

[Text of Annex IV](#)

[Text of Annex V](#)

b) *ATCM Recommendations, Measures, Resolutions and Decisions (in chronological order)*

[Resolution 4 \(2023\) *Urgent measures to be taken with respect to certain tourist and non-governmental activities*](#)

[Decision 4 \(2023\) *Updated requirements for Information Exchange*](#)

[Resolution 2 \(2022\) *Site Guidelines for Visitors*](#)

[Resolution 3 \(2022\) *Air Safety in Antarctica*](#)

[Resolution 5 \(2022\) *Permanent facilities for tourism and other non-governmental activities in Antarctica*](#)

[Resolution 6 \(2022\) *Revised standard Post Visit Site Report Form*](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2021\) *General Guidelines and Site Guidelines Checklist for Visitors to the Antarctic*](#)

[Decision 6 \(2021\) *Manual of Regulations and Guidelines Relevant to Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty area*](#)

[Resolution 5 \(2019\) *Reducing Plastic Pollution in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean*](#)

[Decision 6 \(2019\) *Manual of Regulations and Guidelines Relevant to Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area*](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2018\) *Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems \(RPAS\) in Antarctica*](#)

[Resolution 6 \(2017\) Guidelines on Contingency Planning, Insurance and Other Matters for Tourist and Other Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

[Resolution 1 \(2016\) Revised Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment in Antarctica.](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2016\) Non-native Species Manual](#)

[Resolution 6 \(2014\) Toward a Risk-based Assessment of Tourism and Non-governmental Activities](#)

[Resolution 7 \(2012\) Vessel Safety in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

[Resolution 9 \(2012\) The Assessment of Land-Based Expeditionary Activities](#)

[Resolution 10 \(2012\) Yachting Guidelines](#)

[Resolution 11 \(2012\) Checklist for visitors' in-field activities](#)

[Resolution 6 \(2010\) Improving the co-ordination of maritime search and rescue in the Antarctic Treaty area](#)

[Measure 15 \(2009\) Landing of Persons from Passenger Vessels in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#) (current, but not yet in force as its approval is still pending by a number of Parties)

[Resolution 3 \(2009\) Guidelines for the designation and protection of Historic Sites and Monuments](#)

[Resolution 7 \(2009\) General Principles of Antarctic Tourism](#)

[Resolution 6 \(2008\) Enhancing the role of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres with Search and Rescue Regions in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

[Resolution 4 \(2007\) Ship-based Tourism in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

[Resolution 5 \(2007\) Long-term effects of tourism](#)

[Resolution 3 \(2006\) Ballast water exchange in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#)

[Measure 4 \(2004\) Insurance and Contingency Planning for Tourism and Non-governmental Expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area](#) (current, but not yet in force as its approval is still pending by a number of Parties)

[Resolution 2 \(2004\) Guidelines for the Operation of Aircraft Near Concentrations of Birds in Antarctica](#)

[Resolution 3 \(2004\) Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities: Enhanced Cooperation amongst Parties](#)

[Resolution 1 \(2003\) Advice to vessel and yacht operators](#)

[Resolution 5 \(2001\) Guidelines for handling of pre-1958 historic remains whose existence or present location is not yet known](#)

[Resolution 3 \(1997\) Standard form for advance notification and post-visit reporting on Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#)

[Recommendation XVIII-1 \(1994\) Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities](#)

[Recommendation X-8 \(1979\) *Effects of tourists and non-government expeditions in the Antarctic Treaty Area*](#)