



Ref. T3/1.01

MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.4
2 June 2006

**EARLY APPLICATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE FIRE PROTECTION
REQUIREMENTS OF THE REVISED IBC CODE**

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its fifty-second session (11 to 15 October 2004), and the Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-ninth session (1 to 10 December 2004), adopted amendments to the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (revised IBC Code) by resolutions MEPC.119(52) and MSC.176(79), respectively, which are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2007.

2 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its fifty-third session (18 to 22 July 2005) and the Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-first session (10 to 19 May 2006), approved, in principle, proposed amendments to the fire protection requirements of the aforementioned revised IBC Code, as set out in the annex, with a view to adoption by MEPC 56 and MSC 83.

3 Considering that early implementation of the proposed amendments would be of benefit to the industry and other interested parties, the Committees invited Contracting Governments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and Parties to MARPOL 73/78 to:

- .1 apply the proposed amendments to the revised IBC Code, referred to in paragraph 2 above, to ships flying their flags on or after 1 January 2007, pending their formal entry-into-force; and
- .2 accept ships flying the flags of other States, constructed and equipped in accordance with the revised IBC Code and the aforementioned proposed amendments.

ANNEX

**DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SHIPS CARRYING DANGEROUS
CHEMICALS IN BULK (2004 AMENDMENTS TO THE IBC CODE
(RESOLUTIONS MEPC.119(52) AND MSC.176(79))**

CHAPTER 11

FIRE PROTECTION AND FIRE EXTINCTION

11.1 Application

1 In paragraph 11.1.1, subparagraphs .4 to .6 are replaced by the following subparagraphs:

- .4 regulation 10.5.6 shall apply to ships of 2,000 gross tonnage and over;
- .5 the provisions of 11.3 shall apply in lieu of regulation 10.8;
- .6 the provisions of 11.2 shall apply in lieu of regulation 10.9;
- .7 regulation 4.5.10 shall apply to ships of 500 gross tonnage and over, replacing “hydrocarbon gases” by “flammable vapours” in the regulation; and
- .8 regulations 13.3.4 and 13.4.3 shall apply to ships of 500 gross tonnage and over.”

2 In paragraph 11.1, the following new paragraph 11.1.4 is added:

“11.1.4 In lieu of the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/1.6.7, the requirements of regulations II-2/4.5.10.1.1 and 4.5.10.1.4 and a system for continuous monitoring of the concentration of flammable vapours shall be fitted on ships of 500 gross tonnage and over which were constructed before [the date of entry into force of the amendment] by the date of the first scheduled dry-docking after [the date of entry into force of the amendment], but not later than [3 years after the date of entry into force of the amendment]. Sampling points or detector heads should be located in suitable positions in order that potentially dangerous leakages are readily detected. When the flammable vapour concentration reaches a pre-set level which shall not be higher than 10% of the lower flammable limit, a continuous audible and visual alarm signal shall be automatically effected in the pump-room and cargo control room to alert personnel to the potential hazard. However, existing monitoring systems already fitted having a pre-set level not greater than 30% of the lower flammable limit may be accepted. Notwithstanding the above provisions, the Administration may exempt ships not engaged on international voyages from those requirements.”