



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

2008 Amendments to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters and Classification Societies

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate IMO resolution MSC.262(84) on advance application in whole or in part of the amendments to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code (hereinafter called 2008 Amendments) on a voluntary basis as from 1 January 2009 and the approved amendments to the Revised Emergency Response Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods (EmS Guide) in the IMDG Code Supplement.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee of IMO at its 84th session in May 2008 adopted, by resolution MSC.262(84), the 2008 Amendments which among other things, include:

- New provisions for entities engaging shore-based personnel in the transport of dangerous goods intended to be transported by sea to determine which staff will be trained, what levels of training they require and the training methods used to enable them to comply with the provisions of the IMDG Code;
- Revised list of currently assigned organic peroxide in packagings;
- Complete re-write of chapter on Class 7 – Radioactive materials, together with addition of new general provisions for such materials;
- New criteria for classification of environmentally hazardous substances;
- Re-write of chapter on Marine Pollutants;
- Stowage of persulphates under UN Nos. 1492 and 1505 need not be separated from AMMONIUM PERSULPHATE (UN 1444);
- New Special Provisions for the transport of cell and batteries;
- New provisions for the transport of dangerous goods packed in excepted quantities;
- Amendments to the list of packing instructions;
- Additional requirements for the construction of pressure receptacles for acetylene;
- New provisions for marking and testing of packagings for class 6.2 infectious substances of category A;

- New provisions for vibration test for intermediate bulk containers (IBCs);
- In the Dangerous Goods Lists, a new symbol “P” is used to denote that the dangerous good is also a marine pollutant as determined from a non-exhaustive list of known marine pollutants, based on previous criteria and assignment;
- Addition of a number of new entries of dangerous goods such as “SIGNALS, DISTRESS ship” and “ENGINE, INTERNAL COMBUSTION or VEHICLE, FLAMMABLE GAS POWERED or VEHICLE, FLAMMABLE LIQUID POWERED”;
- Updating the contact information for the main designated national competent authorities.

2. The 2008 Amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2010 unless, prior to 1 July 2009, there are objections from a sufficient number of Contracting Governments. However, as stated in resolution MSC.262(84), the 2008 Amendments may be applied in whole or in part on a voluntary basis as from 1 January 2009.

3. The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 84th session, also approved amendments to the EmS Guide in the IMDG Code Supplement.

4. The details of the 2008 Amendments as contained in resolution MSC.262(84) and amendments to the EmS Guide can be found on the website of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as attachments to this Note.

5. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters and classification societies of Hong Kong registered ships are required to note the amendments and act accordingly.

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