



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

SOLID BULK CARGOES - Adoption of the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code

Notice to all Shipowners, Ship Operators, Ship Managers, Classification Societies, Masters and Officers

This MIN expires 31 May 2010

PLEASE NOTE:-

Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel and you should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

Summary

The International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code was adopted during the 85th session of the Maritime Safety Committee through resolution MSC.268 (85).

The new IMSBC Code supersedes the existing Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes, 2004 adopted by resolution MSC.193 (79), and is made mandatory through SOLAS Convention (as amended) from 1st January 2011.

1. Introduction/ Background

- 1.1 The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS Convention), as amended, deals with various aspects of maritime safety and contains, in parts A and B of chapter VI and part A-1 of chapter VII, the mandatory provisions governing the carriage of solid bulk cargoes and the carriage of dangerous goods in solid form in bulk, respectively.
- 1.2 These provisions are amplified in the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code (IMSBC) Code which although adopted will not be published until around mid 2009.

2. Application and implementation of the IMSBC Code

- 2.1 The provisions contained in the IMSBC Code apply to all ships to which the SOLAS Convention, as amended, applies and that are carrying solid bulk cargoes as defined in regulation 2 of part A of chapter VI of the Convention.

- 2.2 To facilitate the safe transport of solid bulk cargoes, the provisions of the Code may be applied from 1 January 2009 on a voluntary basis, pending entry into force of the SOLAS revisions on 1 January 2011.
- 2.3 In the context of the language of the Code: the words "shall", "should" and "may", when used in the Code, mean that the relevant provisions are "mandatory", "recommendatory" and "optional", respectively.
- 2.4 Observance of the Code harmonises the practices and procedures to be followed and appropriate precautions to be taken in the loading, trimming, carriage and discharge of solid bulk cargoes when transported by sea, ensuring compliance with the mandatory provisions of the SOLAS Convention.

3. Requirements

- 3.1 All Shipowners, Ship Operators, Ship Managers, Classification Societies, Masters and Officers are reminded that the IMSBC Code will take effect on 1 January 2011 upon entry into force of amendments to chapters VI and VII of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974 (as amended).
- 3.2 Statutory instruments will be published introducing penalties and offences for non-compliance. Subsequently an MGN will be published giving the necessary guidance.

More Information

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