

Ref. T3/1.06

**IMPLEMENTATION OF CODES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY**

**The International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code),
its Annexes and Supplements**

1 The carriage of dangerous goods by sea is governed by the regulations of chapter VII of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended¹. Part A of chapter VII regulates the carriage of dangerous goods both in packaged form and in solid form in bulk. Regulation VII/1.3 prohibits the carriage of such cargoes in all ships engaged on international voyages except when carried in accordance with the requirements of part A of SOLAS chapter VII.

2 The provisions of part A of SOLAS chapter VII are supplemented by:

- .1 the IMDG Code, the 1994 consolidated edition of which has been published in four loose-leaf volumes incorporating all amendments up to and including Amendment 27-94, which will apply as from 1 January 1995;
- .2 The relevant sections and related parts of appendix B to the Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes (BC Code);
- .3 The Emergency Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods (EmS);
- .4 the Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods (MFAG);
- .5 the General Principles for Ship Reporting Systems and Ship Reporting Requirements Including Guidelines for Reporting Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods, Harmful Substances and/or Marine Pollutants (resolution A.648(16)); and
- .5 the IMO/ILO Guidelines for Packing Cargo in Freight Containers or Vehicles.

3 The IMDG Code has been recommended to Governments for adoption or for use as the basis for the preparation of relevant national regulations in order to enable the harmonization of provisions governing the carriage of dangerous goods by sea at the international level.

4 Member Governments are occasionally requested to provide information on the present status of implementation of the IMDG Code at the national level and to indicate any significant deviations from the provisions of the Code, if the latter has been only partially implemented (refer also to IMO circular letter No. 1460 of 7 September 1990).

¹ The amended chapter VII, adopted in 1991, entered into force on 1 January 1994. According to SLS.12/Circ.117 of 8 February 1995, there are now 128 Contracting Governments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention.

5 The annex contains a summary of information provided by Governments concerning the status of implementation of the IMDG Code up to September 1995. New and updated information will be issued, as necessary, under a revised version of this circular.

6 The contact names and addresses of the following offices are also included in the annex²:

- .1 the designated national competent authorities, to allow rapid communication between different competent authorities or between competent authorities and those concerned with the carriage of dangerous goods;
- .2 competent authorities and institutes which have been designated for the testing and certification of packagings and intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) in accordance with the provisions of the IMDG Code and Annex I thereto; and
- .3 classification societies or other bodies which have been designated as competent inspection agencies or authorities for testing, approval, acceptance and other duties connected with portable tanks, tank-containers, road tank vehicles and similar cargo transport units.

7 To keep the annex as up to date as possible, Administrations which have not as yet provided the information requested by this circular or which have previously provided information that needs to be updated, are invited to review the annex and to notify the Secretariat³ of their designated authorities or of any new information or changes to existing entries in the annex.

8 This circular replaces MSC.2/Circ.33.

² For national competent authorities responsible for approval and authorization in respect of the transport of radioactive material, see also the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) National Competent Authorities List. Specific information on package approvals issued by individual Member States for the transport of radioactive materials is available from the issuing competent authority. IAEA maintains a database (PACKTRAM) on valid package approval certificates from Member States to respond to technical and administrative inquiries concerning such approvals. An annual report is published in the form of a technical document entitled 'Directory of National Competent Authorities' Approval Certificates for Package Design and Shipment of Radioactive Material. Enquiries may be directed to:

Division of Nuclear Safety
International Atomic Energy Agency
P.O. Box 100
1400 Vienna
Austria.

³ International Maritime Organization (IMO)
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 171 735 7611
Telefax: + 44 171 587 3210
Telex: 23599 IMOLDN G
