

Regulatory eNewsletter

The DNV report from the 15th session of the Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC 15) in IMO

The Sub-Committee deals with cargo-related issues. DSC is responsible for development of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code and the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code (former BC Code). They are both continuously updated.

At this session, which took place in London September 13-17, several new or amended schedules were adopted. The following is a summary of the significant items discussed during DSC 15:

Agenda item 3 – Amendments to the IMDG Code and supplements, including harmonization of the IMDG Code with the UN recommendations on transport of dangerous goods

It has been decided that a new complete IMDG Code will only be issued every fourth year, starting from Amendment 35-10. This Amendment may be applied on a voluntary basis from 1 January 2011. It will be mandatory from 1 January 2012.

The Amendment 36-12 to the IMDG Code will only be issued as an amendment to the Code.

Agenda item 4 – Amendments to the IMSBC Code, including evaluation of properties of solid bulk cargoes

IMSBC Code

Draft new or amended schedules were adopted for the following cargoes, and it was decided to have them included in the draft amendment 01-11 to the IMSBC Code:

- DRIED DISTILLERS GRAINS WITH SOLUBLES, Group C
- GRANULAR FERROUS SULPHATE, Group C
- FERROUS SULPHATE HEPTAHYDRATE, Group C
- FLY ASH, WET, Group A
- FLY ASH, DRY (existing FLY ASH)
- MAGNESIUM SULPHATE FERTILIZERS, Group C
- Wood Products – General, containing the following wood products LOGS, PULP WOOD, ROUNDWOOD, SAW LOGS and TIMBER, Group B

A lot of other changes in several schedules, such as changing the phrase “Competent Authority” to “Administration”, were included in the draft amendment 01-11 to the IMSBC Code. The changes will not create any significant changes for the carriage of the affected cargoes.



Survey and Certification Scheme

The Sub-Committee considered the industry’s concerns regarding the absence of a survey and certification scheme within the IMSBC Code, but did not support the development of a common survey and certification scheme.

Classification of MHB (Materials Hazardous only in Bulk) Cargoes

It is a common understanding that MHB cargoes require that some classification criteria are established. A Correspondence Group shall submit a written report on this issue to DSC 16.

The Transport of Iron Ore Fines

The Sub-Committee decided that a DSC Circular on the “Carriage of Iron Ore Fines that may Liquefy” shall be issued to inform relevant parties about the dangers of liquefaction associated with the carriage of Iron Ore Fines based on concerns expressed by BIMCO.

Draft MSC Circular on Lists of Solid Bulk Cargoes for which a Fixed Gas Fire-Extinguishing System may be Exempted or for which a Fixed Gas Fire-Extinguishing System is ineffective

The Sub-Committee agreed to the above mentioned draft MSC Circular. The draft MSC Circular was finalized with the following amendments:

Amendments in Table 1 of the Annex to the MSC Circular:

- The cargo WOOD PULP PELLETS has been removed
- The cargoes LOGS, PULPWOOD, ROUND WOOD, SAW LOGS and TIMBER have been added
- An A between brackets has been put after “DIRECT REDUCED IRON”.

Agenda item 6 – Guidance on protective clothing

A common standard on protective clothing is highly wanted from the member states. The Sub-Committee agreed to wait for a revised ISO standard.

Agenda item 7 – Revision of the Code of Safe Practice for Ships Carrying Timber Deck Cargoes

The draft revision of “The Code of Safe Practice for Ships Carrying Timber Deck Cargoes” was agreed and forwarded to MSC 89 with a view for adoption.

Agenda item 8 – Stowage of Water-Reactive Materials

A Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) study conducted by Germany had not yet been completed. They will present the results from the study on DSC 16.

Agenda item 10 – Revision of the Recommendations for Entering Enclosed Spaces aboard Ships

A draft for a Revised Assembly Resolution on “Recommendations for Entering Enclosed Spaces aboard Ships” (Res. A.864(20)) was agreed and submitted to MSC 89 for approval.

Agenda item 11 – Consideration for the Efficacy of Container Inspection Programme

A more comprehensive and detailed guidance on the inspection of containers is needed and a CG shall report to DSC 16 to either make a proposal to a new MSC Circ. or review the existing MSC.1/Circ.1202.

Agenda Item 14 – Work Programme and Provisional Agenda for DSC 16

The next Sub-Committee meeting, DSC 16, is planned for September 19–23, 2011.

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