

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
101st session
Agenda item 3

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**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS
TO MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS**

**Amendments to the BCH Code and draft consequential amendments to
MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.3**

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides the text of draft amendments to the BCH Code, for adoption in conjunction with the adoption of the corresponding amendments to the IBC Code and the draft consequential amendments to MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.3, for approval in conjunction with the adoption of the amendments to the IMSBC Code

*Strategic direction,
if applicable:* 1.1

Output: 1.1.2.3

Action to be taken: Paragraph 3

Related documents: MSC 101/3; Circular Letter No.3904; CCC 5/13 and
MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.3

Draft amendments to the BCH Code

1 The Committee, at its 100th session (3 to 7 December 2018), considered and approved draft amendments to the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code), as set out in annex 1, with a view to adoption at MSC 101, in conjunction with the adoption of the corresponding amendments to the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) (MSC 101/3, annex 5).

Consequential amendments to MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.3

2 The Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC), at its fifth session, authorized E&T 30 to prepare draft amendments to the IMSBC Code (05-19) with a view to submission to MSC 101 for consideration and adoption. Some consequential amendments to MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.3 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* were identified and finalized by E&T 30, as set out in annex 2.

Action requested of the Committee

3 The Committee is invited to consider the annexed draft amendments to the BCH Code and MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.3 for adoption and approval, respectively, in conjunction with the adoption of the corresponding amendments to the IBC Code.

ANNEX 1

DRAFT MSC RESOLUTION

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT
OF SHIPS CARRYING DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN BULK (BCH CODE)**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO resolution A.212(VII) by which the Assembly, at its seventh session, adopted the *Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk* (BCH Code), which provides safety requirements for chemical tankers supplementary to the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution MEPC.20(22), by which the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) adopted the BCH Code to make it mandatory under MARPOL,

NOTING resolution MSC.29(61), by which, at its sixty-first session, it adopted the revised BCH Code,

NOTING ALSO resolutions MSC.[...] and MEPC.[...], respectively, by which it, and MEPC, adopted corresponding amendments to the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code),

NOTING FURTHER resolution MEPC.[...] by which MEPC, at its [...] session, adopted amendments to the Certificate of Fitness under the BCH Code,

CONSIDERING that it is highly desirable for the provisions of the BCH Code, which are mandatory under MARPOL and recommendatory from a safety standpoint, to remain identical when adopted by the Marine Environment Protection Committee and the Maritime Safety Committee,

HAVING CONSIDERED, amendments to the BCH Code approved by the Committee at its 100th session,

RECOGNIZING the need to bring the approved amendments to the BCH Code into force on the date on which corresponding amendment to the IBC Code enters into force,

1 ADOPTS amendments to the Certificate of Fitness under the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code), as amended, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 DETERMINES that said amendments shall become effective on [...] upon acceptance and entry into force of the corresponding amendment to the IBC Code, adopted by resolution MSC.[...].

ANNEX

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE BCH CODE

**CHAPTER IV
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 1 A new section 4.24 is inserted after existing section 4.23:

"4.24 Hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) detection equipment for bulk liquids

Hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) detection equipment shall be provided on board ships carrying bulk liquids prone to H₂S formation. It should be noted that scavengers and biocides, when used, may not be 100% effective in controlling the formation of H₂S."

**CHAPTER V
OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 2 Paragraph 5.2.7 is replaced by the following:

"5.2.7 Where *column m** in the table of chapter VI refers to this paragraph, the cargo is subject to the prewash requirements in regulation 13.7.1.4 of Annex II of MARPOL"

**CHAPTER VI
SUMMARY OF MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

IBC/BCH Codes cross-references to the requirements

- 3 The following cross-references are added under section "Special requirements (*column o*)":

"15.15 4.24
16.2.7 5.2.7"

ANNEX 2

DRAFT REVISION OF MSC.1/CIRC.1395/REV.3

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

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-fourth session (5 to 9 December 1994), agreed that there was a need to provide Administrations with guidelines regarding the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/10 concerning exemptions from the requirements for fire-extinguishing systems.

2 Consequently, the Committee approved MSC/Circ.671 whereby it agreed to:

.1 a list of solid bulk cargoes, for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system may be exempted (table 1) and recommended Member States to take into account the information contained in table 1 when granting exemptions under the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/10.7.1.4; and

.2 a list of solid bulk cargoes for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system is ineffective (table 2), and recommended that cargo spaces in a ship engaged in the carriage of cargoes listed in table 2 be provided with a fire-extinguishing system which provides equivalent protection. The Committee also agreed that Administrations should take account of the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/19.3.1 when determining suitable requirements for an equivalent fire-extinguishing system.

3 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-ninth session (1 to 10 December 2004), reviewed the above-mentioned tables and approved MSC/Circ.1146. The Committee decided that the annexed tables should be periodically reviewed and invited Member States to provide the Organization, when granting exemptions to ships for the carriage of cargoes not included in table 1, with data on the non-combustibility or fire risk properties of such cargoes. Member States were also requested to provide the Organization, when equivalent fire-extinguishing systems are required for the agreed carriage of cargoes not included in table 2, with data on the inefficiency of fixed gas fire-extinguishing systems for such cargoes.

4 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-ninth session (11 to 20 May 2011), noting the mandatory status of the IMSBC Code, reviewed the aforementioned lists of solid bulk cargoes to align certain names in the lists with those in the recent version of the IMDG Code and approved MSC.1/Circ.1395 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*, superseding MSC/Circ.1146. The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-second session (12 to 21 June 2013), approved a revision of MSC.1/Circ.1395 (MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.1).

5 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-fifth session (3 to 12 June 2015), considering a proposal by the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers, at its first session, approved a revision of tables 1 and 2 of MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.1 (MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.2).

6 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-eighth session (7 to 16 June 2017), considering a proposal by the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers, at its third session, approved a revision of tables 1 and 2 of MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.2 (MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.3).

[7 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its [101st session ([...] to [...] 2019)], considering a proposal by the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers, at its third session, approved a revision of tables 1 and 2 of MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.3, as set out in the annex.]

8 The purpose of this circular is to provide guidance to Administrations. However, Administrations are not prevented from granting exemptions for cargoes not included in table 1 or impose any conditions when granting such exemptions under the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/10.7.1.4.

9 This circular supersedes MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.3.

ANNEX¹

TABLE 1

**LIST OF SOLID BULK CARGOES FOR WHICH A FIXED
GAS FIRE-EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM MAY BE EXEMPTED**

1 Cargoes including, but not limited to, those listed in SOLAS regulation II-2/10:

Ore
Coal (COAL and BROWN COAL BRIQUETTES)
Grain
Unseasoned timber

2 Cargoes listed in the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code, which are not combustible or constitute a low fire risk, as follows:

- .1 all cargoes not categorized into Group B in the IMSBC Code;
- .2 the following cargoes categorized into Group B in the IMSBC Code:

ALUMINA HYDRATE
ALUMINIUM SMELTING BY-PRODUCTS, UN 3170
(Both the names ALUMINIUM SMELTING BY-PRODUCTS or ALUMINIUM
REMELTING BY-PRODUCTS are in use as proper shipping name)
ALUMINIUM FERROSILICON POWDER, UN 1395
ALUMINIUM SILICON POWDER, UNCOATED, UN 1398
AMORPHOUS SODIUM SILICATE LUMPS
BORIC ACID
CALCINED PYRITES (Pyritic ash)
CLINKER ASH
COAL TAR PITCH
DIRECT REDUCED IRON (A) Briquettes, hot moulded
FERROPHOSPHORUS (including briquettes)
FERROSILICON UN 1408, with 30% or more but less than 90% silicon
(including briquettes)
FERROSILICON, with at least 25% but less than 30% silicon, or 90% or more
silicon
FLUE DUST, CONTAINING LEAD AND ZINC
FLUORSPAR (calcium fluoride)
GRANULATED NICKEL MATTE (less than 2% moisture content)
LIME (UNSLAKED)
LOGS
MAGNESIA (UNSLAKED)
MATTE CONTAINING COPPER AND LEAD
MONOCALCIUMPHOSPHATE (MCP)
MONOAMMONIUM PHOSPHATE (M.A.P.), MINERAL ENRICHED
COATING
PEAT MOSS
PETROLEUM COKE²
PITCH PRILL
PULP WOOD

¹ The text highlighted in grey shows the cargoes included in the existing circular and these are not to be highlighted in the final revision of the MSC Circular.

² When loaded and transported under the provisions of the IMSBC Code.

RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, LOW SPECIFIC ACTIVITY MATERIAL (LSA-1),
(non-fissile or fissile – excepted) UN 2912
RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, SURFACE CONTAMINATED OBJECT(S)
(SCO-I or SCO-II), (non-fissile or fissile – excepted) UN 2913
ROUNDWOOD
SAND, MINERAL CONCENTRATE, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, LOW
SPECIFIC ACTIVITY (LSA-I) UN 2912
SAW LOGS
SILICOMANGANESE
SULPHUR, UN 1350
TIMBER
VANADIUM ORE
WOODCHIPS, with moisture content of 15% or more
WOOD PELLETS (NOT CONTAINING ANY ADDITIVES AND/OR BINDERS)
ZINC ASHES, UN 1435
ZINC OXIDE ENRICHED FLUE DUST

- .3 cargoes assigned to the following generic Group B shipping schedules when they do not exhibit any self-heating, flammability or water-reactive flammability hazards in accordance with the MHB tests and classification criteria contained in the Code:

METAL SULPHIDE CONCENTRATES
METAL SULPHIDE CONCENTRATES, CORROSIVE UN 1759

- 3 Solid bulk cargoes which are not listed in the IMSBC Code, provided that:
- .1 they are assessed in accordance with section 1.3 of the Code;
- .2 they do not present hazards of Group B as defined in the Code; and
- .3 a certificate has been provided by the competent authority of the port of loading to the master in accordance with 1.3.2 of the Code.

TABLE 2

LIST OF SOLID BULK CARGOES FOR WHICH A FIXED GAS FIRE-EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM IS INEFFECTIVE AND FOR WHICH A FIRE-EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM GIVING EQUIVALENT PROTECTION SHALL BE AVAILABLE

The following cargoes are categorized into Group B of the IMSBC Code:

ALUMINIUM NITRATE, UN 1438
AMMONIUM NITRATE, UN 1942 (with not more than 0.2% total combustible material, including any organic substance, calculated as carbon to the exclusion of any other added substance)
AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED FERTILIZER, UN 2067
AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED FERTILIZER, UN 2071
BARIUM NITRATE, UN 1446
CALCIUM NITRATE, UN 1454
LEAD NITRATE, UN 1469
MAGNESIUM NITRATE, UN 1474
POTASSIUM NITRATE, UN 1486
SODIUM NITRATE, UN 1498
SODIUM NITRATE AND POTASSIUM NITRATE, MIXTURE, UN 1499