



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

HM Government of Gibraltar

Watergate House
2/8 Casemates Square
Gibraltar

Tel (+350)200 46862 / 200 47771 /200 50424
Fax (+350) 200 47770
e-mail: maritime.survey@gibraltar.gov.gi
maritime.registry@gibraltar.gov.gi

Shipping Guidance Notice – 087 Chapter 18 of the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (the IBC Code)

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, Classification Societies and Recognised Organisations

Related legislation or information: -

- International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code)
- MARPOL 73/78 - Annex II
- Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Regulations 2009
- The vessel's Procedures and Arrangement Manual (P&A manual)
- The vessel's Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan (SMPEP)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this guidance notice is to address regulation 18.2 of the International Bulk Chemical code which requires that Administrations provide appropriate safety requirements concerning the safe carriage and handling of Ch.18 products when transported on Gibraltar registered vessels as indicated within.

2. Chapter 18 of the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (the IBC Code)

Chapter 18 of the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (the IBC Code) lists products which have been reviewed for their safety and pollution hazards and determined not to present hazards to such an extent as to warrant the application of the Code.

It is however identified that, some precautions may still be necessary for the safe transportation of these products and section 18.2 of the IBC Code requires that Administrations prescribe appropriate safety requirements for their carriage.

The applicable products are listed together with their Pollution Category (as categorised by regulation 6 of Annex II of MARPOL 73/78) at the end of Chapter 18 of the IBC Code.

3. Safety Requirements of the Gibraltar Maritime Administration

Information required by section 16.2.3.1 of the IBC Code must be on board and available to all concerned, giving the necessary data for the safe carriage of the cargo in bulk. It usually takes the form of appropriate Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS¹) and the MSDS for each product will contain safety information for the correct handling and storage of the product.

The precautions outlined in the MSDS must always be followed when transporting these products. When the cargo is a mixture, an analysis indicating the dangerous components contributing significantly to the total hazard, or a complete analysis if this is available, must be provided on board.

In accordance with Section 7 of the ISM Code, operational procedures should be developed controlling the safe handling, carriage and transport of these products. When doing so, companies should fully consider the guidance included in ISGOTT² (Ch.11 & 12) and IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1216³ (Section 9) and consider mixtures as well as pure products.

Where an IBC Ch18 product has been assigned the Pollution Category Z⁴, the loading, carriage and discharge of the product should be in accordance with the relevant regulations contained in MARPOL Annex II and the guidance included in the vessel's P&A and SMPEP manuals. The procedures referenced above may be incorporated into other vessel operational procedures controlling the carriage of products and may also be subject to other chapters of the IBC Code.

¹May also be known as a "Product Safety Data Sheet" (PSDS) or in the UK a "Code of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Data Sheet"

²The International Safety Guide for Oil Tankers and Terminals, published by ICS, OCIMF and IAPH.

³"Revised Recommendations on the Safe Transport of Dangerous Cargoes and Related Activities in Port Areas" as may be amended or updated by IMO, from time to time.

⁴Note - Chemical tanker certificate of fitness lists of Ch.17 products should identify these as "Chapter 18 category Z" (per model certificate format completion note 4).

Dylan Cocklan
Maritime Administrator (Ag)

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