

LP Bulletin

Friday 19 December 2008

Bulletin 615 - 12/08 - IMDG Code Update - Worldwide

Amendment 34-08 of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code) becomes valid on 01 January 2009.

Which amendment of the IMDG Code should I use?

All amendments prior to 33-06 are no longer valid. Amendment 33-06 became valid on 01 January 2007 and may be used until 31 December 2009. Amendment 34-08 becomes valid on 01 January 2009 and may be used until 31 December 2011.

One of the most important changes is appropriate training for shore-side staff involved with dangerous goods is now mandatory instead of just recommended. There are many detailed changes throughout the text of amendment 34, but for information the main changes are:

Additional items in the Dangerous Goods List

There are 12 new UN numbers going up to 3481, with explosives going up to 0508. New UN numbers added in Amendment 34-08:

- 0506 SIGNALS, DISTRESS, ship
- 0506 SIGNALS, DISTRESS, ship
- 0507 SIGNALS, SMOKE
- 0508 1-HYDROXYBENZOTRIAZOLE, ANHYDROUS
- 3474 1-HYDROXYBENZOTRIAZOLE, ANHYDROUS, WETTED with not less than 20% water, by mass
- 3475 ETHANOL AND GASOLINE MIXTURE or ETHANOL AND MOTOR SPIRIT MIXTURE or ETHANOL AND PETROL MIXTURE, with more than 10% ethanol
- 3476 FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES or FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES CONTAINED IN EQUIPMENT or FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES PACKED WITH EQUIPMENT, containing water-reactive substances
- 3477 FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES or FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES CONTAINED IN EQUIPMENT or FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES PACKED WITH EQUIPMENT, containing corrosive substances
- 3478 FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES or FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES CONTAINED IN EQUIPMENT or FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES PACKED WITH EQUIPMENT, containing liquefied flammable gas
- 3479 FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES or FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES CONTAINED IN EQUIPMENT or FUEL CELL CARTRIDGES PACKED WITH EQUIPMENT, containing hydrogen in metal hydride
- 3480 LITHIUM ION BATTERIES
- 3481 LITHIUM ION BATTERIES CONTAINED IN EQUIPMENT or LITHIUM ION BATTERIES PACKED WITH EQUIPMENT

There are also 5 UN numbers which were previously not listed in the IMDG Code because they were not regulated under it, but are now shown with the observation "Not subject to the provisions of this Code but may be subject to provisions governing the transport of dangerous goods by other modes". This could be useful when a shipment needs to be labelled as hazardous at some other stage of its journey. UN Numbers not previously listed in IMDG but that have been included in Amendment 34-08:

- 1910 CALCIUM OXIDE
- 2807 MAGNETIZED MATERIAL
- 2812 SODIUM ALUMINATE, SOLID
- 3166 ENGINE, INTERNAL COMBUSTION or VEHICLE, FLAMMABLE GAS POWERED or VEHICLE, FLAMMABLE LIQUID POWERED
- 3171 BATTERY-POWERED VEHICLE or BATTERY-POWERED EQUIPMENT

Training

Appropriate training for shore-side staff involved with dangerous goods is now mandatory instead of just recommended, and may be audited by the competent authority. Persons not yet trained may only operate under the direct supervision of a trained person.

Marine pollutant

The concept of a severe marine pollutant PP is deleted; they are just designated as P. The marine pollutant 'bullet' symbol is also deleted, but a shipper will still need to declare any consignment as being a marine pollutant if it meets the criteria. There is a new section 2.9.3 describing these, and chapter 2.10 is rewritten. The new marine pollutant label is a dead tree and dead fish.



IMO tank instructions

The IMO tank instruction column disappears from the Dangerous Goods List because the transitional provisions on their use will have expired by the time this amendment becomes mandatory on 1/1/2010.

Excepted quantities

There is a new column 7b in the Dangerous Goods List for excepted quantities. These are small amounts, up to 30g or 30ml per inner package, 1kg per outer package. These are subject only to the rules of the new chapter 3.5, part 2 (classification) and some sections of 4.1 (packing) and 5.4 (documentation). They will be labelled with an 'excepted quantity' label and the class number. The dangerous goods form shall state the words "dangerous goods in excepted quantities" together with the description of



the shipment. An entry E0 in column 7b indicates that a substance may not be transported in excepted quantities. Codes E1 to E5 indicate different quantity limits according to a table in chapter 3.5. The total number of excepted quantity packages in a CTU shall not exceed 1000.

Limited quantities

For a substance not permitted in limited quantities, the column 7a entry "None" becomes "0".

Radioactive materials of class 7

For class 7 radioactives, chapter 2.7 is completely rewritten, and there is a new chapter 1.5, 'general provisions concerning class 7'.

Source of information: Exis Technologies – IMDG Code Support www.imdgsupport.com

