



RAYAH MARITIME SERVICES GROUP (RMSG)

Issuance Date 29th November, 2010

Pages: (Total) 1

Subject: INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SOLID BULK CARGOES (IMSBC) CODE

Dear All,

The IMO Maritime Safety Committee at its 85th session in December 2008 adopted, by resolution MSC.268 (85) and MSC. 269(85), The text of the IMSBC Code and the date of its implementation respectively.

The new IMSBC Code will replace the existing Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes, 2004 and will be mandatory through the SOLAS Convention (as amended) from **January 1st 2011**.

The provisions contained in the IMSBC Code apply to all ships to which the SOLAS Convention, as amended, applies and that are carrying solid bulk cargoes as define in Regulation 2 of part A of the Chapter VI of the Convention.

Observance of the IMSBC Code harmonizes the practices and procedures to be followed and appropriate precautions to be taken in the loading, trimming, carriage and discharge of solid bulk cargoes when transported by sea, ensuring compliance with the mandatory provisions of the SOLAS Conventions.

Recognized Organizations as well as ship owners, ship managers, ship operators and ship masters are required to note the IMSBC Code and act accordingly.

Best regards

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Classification News

October 28, 2010 No. 39/2010

Statutory alert Mandatory implementation of the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code

Applicability All shipowners and managers

Information On January 1, 2011, the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code becomes mandatory. The Code gives requirements for the safe carriage of bulk cargoes and covers: loading and discharge; safety of ship personnel; trimming procedures; and carriage of cargoes which may liquefy or which represent a chemical hazard.

The new Code is very similar to the Bulk Cargoes (BC) Code 2004 (which it replaces), but contains a number of changes, including:

- the addition of new cargoes
 - DRI (C)*
 - linted cotton seeds
- operational guidance on the carriage of coal and brown coal which states that such coal is not to be stowed adjacent to fuel tanks heated to above 55°C
- guidance on safe carriage of cargoes not contained within the Code
- minor modifications to existing cargo schedules.

While survey and certification are not mandatory for the new IMSBC Code, many ports and other authorities require a Certificate of Compliance. Lloyds Register can issue a Certificate of Compliance for carriage of all cargoes listed in the IMSBC Code; this will replace any previously issued BC Code certification. For further information on survey and certification, please contact External Affairs in London: external-affairs@lr.org or call +44 (0)20 7423 2091.

* DRI = direct reduced iron. Category C is by-products and fines.

For further information, contact

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October 2010

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