

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

27 June 2016

Forty-ninth session

Geneva, 27 June-6 July 2016

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations with the Model Regulations

Adoption of amendments to the IMDG Code

Transmitted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Introduction

1. The ninety-sixth session of the Maritime Safety Committee met from 11 to 20 May 2016 at IMO Headquarters in London. The report of the Committee is contained in document MSC 96/25*.
2. The expanded Committee, including delegations of 98 Contracting Governments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention, considered the proposed amendments to the IMDG Code, as finalized by E&T 24 and set out in the annexes to Circular Letter No.3598 of 5 November 2015, in conjunction with the proposed editorial modifications prepared by the drafting group (MSC 96/WP.6, annex 5), and adopted the amendments to the IMDG Code unanimously by resolution MSC.406(96), as set out in annex 5 to document MSC 96/25/Add.2*.
3. In this context, it should be noted that the full text of amendment 38-16 of the IMDG Code (resolution MSC.406(96)) was prepared as a single annex to the report of the Committee after the session, rather than having parts 1 and 2 as one annex and part 3 separately. In doing so, it will be easier for Administrations to use the authentic text of the Code when preparing national legislation.
4. In accordance with article VIII(b)(vi)(2)(bb) of the SOLAS Convention, that the said amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2017, unless prior to that date, more than one third of the Contracting Governments to the Convention or Contracting Governments the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet, have notified their objections to the amendments. According, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2018 upon their acceptance. Furthermore, the Contracting Governments to the SOLAS Convention may apply the aforementioned amendments in whole or in part on a voluntary basis as from 1 January 2017.

* To be issued in due course in IMODOCS.

Other related matters

5. The following IMO Circulars related to the transport of dangerous goods by sea have been issued.

MSC.1/Circ.1520 Guidelines on consolidated IMO provisions for the safe carriage of dangerous goods in packaged form by sea;

MSC.1/Circ.1521 Amendments to the Inspection programmes for cargo transport units carrying dangerous goods;

MSC.1/Circ.1522 Amendments to the Emergency Response Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods (EmS) Guide.

6. With regard to MSC.1/Circ.1522 on Amendments to the Emergency Response Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods (EmS) Guide, the Committee instructed the CCC Sub-Committee to consider, at the next revision of the EmS Guide, preparing a new draft revised MSC circular containing a consolidated version of the Guide, for ease of reference, taking into account that a new MSC circular may result in consequential changes to the IMDG Code.

Proposal

7. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided and take action as appropriate.
