



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, MARINE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Marine Notice No. 10 of 2004**

*Notice to all ship-owners (including domestic areas), masters, officers, ships agents and port authorities.*

**International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code.**

The Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods) Rules, 1992 (SI No. 391 of 1992) give effect to Chapter VII (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), which was ratified in February 1984 and the Protocol 1988.

Amendments to SOLAS Chapter VII to make the IMDG Code mandatory from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 were adopted in 2002 through IMO Resolution MSC 123(75) and MSC 122(75).

The Code operated as a recommendatory instrument since its adoption at International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1965. It has undergone many changes both in appearance and content to keep pace with the ever-changing needs of the industry. Amendments to the Code originate from two sources: proposals submitted directly to IMO by Member States; and amendments required taking account of changes to the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods which set the requirement for all transport modes and referred to as the Orange Book. Amendments to this book are made on a two yearly cycle. These amendments are adopted by various competent authorities to ensure that difficulties are not encountered at inter modal interfaces.

The IMDG Code lays down basic principles and contains detailed recommendations for individual substances material and articles, as well as a number of recommendations for good operational practice including advice on terminology, packing, labelling, stowage, segregation and handling and emergency response action.

The two-volume Code is divided into seven parts –

Volume 1 (parts 1, 2 and 4 to 7 of the Code) contains sections on:

- General provisions, definitions and training
- Classification
- Consignment procedures
- Construction and testing of packaging, International Bulk Containers (IBCs), large packaging, portable tanks and road tank vehicles
- Transport operations

Volume 2 (part 3, appendix A and appendix B) contains sections on:

- Dangerous Goods List (equivalent to the schedules in previous editions of the Code), presented in tabular format
- Limited quantities exceptions
- Proper Shipping Names including generic and N.O.S. (not otherwise specified) entries
- Glossary of Terms
- Index

The application of the Code is compulsory however the Code also contains provisions of a recommendatory nature, which are explicitly stated in Chapter 1.1 of the Code and are clearly expressed in the Code by the use of the word “should” instead of “shall” to clarify their status.

The provisions of the following parts of the Code are recommendatory:

- Chapter 1.3 (Training for shore personnel) \*
- Chapter 2.1 (Explosives, Introductory Notes 1 to 4 only)
- Chapter 2.3, section 2.3.3 (determination of flashpoint only)
- Chapter 3.2 (column 15 and 17 of the Dangerous Goods List only)
- Chapter 3.5 (transport schedule for Class 7 radioactive material only)
- Chapter 5.4, section 5.4.5 (Multimodal dangerous goods form), insofar as the layout of the form is concerned
- Chapter 7.3 (Special requirements in the event of an incident and fire precautions involving dangerous goods only)
- Appendix B

**\*Note: *For the training of officers and rating responsible for cargo handling on ships carrying dangerous and hazardous substances in solid bulk or in packaged form refer to the STCW Code.***

This Marine Notice is issued in accordance with Rule 1(3) of S.I. No. 391 of 1992.

A copy of the IMDG Code Edition 2002 plus the Supplement incorporating Amendment 31 (ISBN 92 801 5140-1 IMO sales number –ID200E) is available from IMO, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR.

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14<sup>th</sup> April 2004

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice please contact  
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