



Marine Notice No. 49 of 2023

This Marine Notice supersedes Marine Notice No. 23 of 2009

Notice to all Shipowners, Ship Operators, Harbour Masters, Agents, Shipmasters, Stevedores, Seafarers, Shippers of Dangerous Goods and Companies involved in the transport of dangerous goods by sea.

The International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code

The Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods) Rules, 2023 ([S.I. 488 of 2023](#)) 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 in the Protocol of 1988. This Marine Notice is issued in accordance with Rule 2(2) of S.I. No. 488 of 2023 and supersedes Marine Notice No. 23 of 2009. The Marine Survey Office of the Department of Transport is the Competent Authority for the implementation of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code.

Amendments to SOLAS Chapter VII to make the IMDG Code mandatory from 1 January 2004 were adopted in 2002 through IMO Resolutions [MSC 123\(75\)](#) and [MSC 122\(75\)](#).

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 current edition of the IMDG Code is edition 2020 incorporating amendments 40-20, which were adopted on 11 November 2020 through IMO Resolution MSC.477(102) (available [here](#)) and which came into force on 1 January 2022. These amendments replaced the complete text of the IMDG Code. A new edition of the IMDG Code has been published by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in hard copy, as a download and as an Internet subscription. Information on accessing IMO publications can be found [here](#).

Further amendments have since been made to the IMDG Code through [IMO Resolution MSC.501\(105\)](#), which was adopted on 28 April 2022. These new amendments come into force on 1 January 2024. Responsible persons are requested to note the new requirements and ensure they put in place appropriate procedures to ensure they are in compliance when these amendments come into force next January.

Changes to the Code which are mandatory as from 1 January 2024 include a new Chapter 6.10 on the provisions for the design, construction, inspection and testing of portable tanks with shells made of fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP) materials and amendments to various chapters of the Code as listed in the Appendix to this Notice.

Although the information in the Code is directed primarily at the mariner, its provisions are essential for a whole range of industries and services. Manufacturers, packers, shippers, feeder services such as road and rail, and port authorities will find reliable advice on terminology, packing, labelling, classification, stowage, segregation, and emergency response action.

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

Ship operators and vessel masters are reminded of the following:

- Emergency Response Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods – The EmS Guide.
- Medical First Aid Guide for use in Accidents involving Dangerous Goods – MFAG.

Both of the above are included in the Supplement to the IMDG Code.

Marine Notice No. 23 of 2009 is hereby withdrawn.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

11/07/2023

Updated 17/10/2023

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie.
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie.
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport.

Appendix: List of Chapters of the IMDG Code amended by IMO Resolution MSC. 501(105)

- Chapter 1.2 - Definitions, units of measurement and abbreviations.
- Chapter 1.4 - Security provisions.
- Chapter 1.5 - General provisions concerning radioactive material.
- Chapter 2.4 Class 4 – Flammable solids; substances liable to spontaneous combustion; substances which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases.
- Chapter 2.5 Class 5 – Oxidizing substances and organic peroxides.
- Chapter 2.6 Class 6 – Toxic and infectious substances.
- Chapter 2.7 Class 7 – Radioactive material.
- Chapter 2.8 Class 8 – Corrosive substances.
- Chapter 2.9 – Miscellaneous dangerous substances and articles (class 9) and environmentally hazardous substances.
- Chapter 3.1 - General.
- Chapter 3.2 - Dangerous Goods List.
- Chapter 3.3 - Special provisions applicable to certain substances, materials or articles.
- Chapter 4.1 - Use of packaging, including intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) and large packaging.
- Chapter 4.2 - Use of portable tanks and multiple-element gas containers (MEGCs).
- Chapter 5.1 - General provisions on Consignment Procedures.
- Chapter 5.2 - Marking and labelling of packages including IBCs.
- Chapter 5.4 - Documentation.
- Chapter 6.1 - Provisions for the construction and testing of packagings (other than for class 6.2 substances).
- Chapter 6.2 - Provisions for the construction and testing of pressure receptacles, aerosol dispensers, small receptacles containing gas (gas cartridges) and fuel cell cartridges containing liquefied flammable gas.
- Chapter 6.3 - Provisions for the construction and testing of packagings for class 6.2 infectious substances of category A.

- Chapter 6.4 - Provisions for the construction, testing and approval of packages for radioactive material and for the approval of such material.
- Chapter 6.5 - Provisions for the construction and testing of intermediate bulk containers (IBCs).
- Chapter 6.6 - Provisions for the construction and testing of large packagings.
- Chapter 6.7 - Provisions for the design, construction, inspection and testing of portable tanks and multiple-element gas containers (MEGCs).
- Chapter 6.10 - Provisions for the design, construction, inspection and testing of portable tanks with shells made of fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP) materials.
- Chapter 7.2 - General segregation provisions.
- Chapter 7.3 - Consigning operations concerning the packing and use of cargo transport units (CTUs) and related provisions.
- Chapter 7.6 - Stowage and Segregation on general cargo ships.
- Chapter 7.9 - Exemptions, approvals and certificates.