



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping
4th Floor, New Government Centre
PORT-LOUIS

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE No 2 of 2004

Title: The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Marine
Pollutants in Packaged Form - Amendment 31-02 to the International
Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code

*Notice to Owners, Managers, Masters of Mauritian cargo and Passenger Vessels,
All International Association of Classification Society's (IACS) Members.*

This Notice is to highlight the mandating of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code) to all those involved in the manufacturing, packaging, packing, handling and transportation of dangerous goods and marine pollutants in packaged form for transport by sea on ships within Mauritian waters and on board Mauritian ships wherever they may be.

1. IMDG Code has been agreed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and entered into force internationally on 1 January 2003, with a twelve month "transitional period" until 31 December 2003.
2. From 1 January 2004 the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code became mandatory in international law through the amendment of SOLAS Chapter VII.
3. From 1 January 2004 dangerous goods and marine pollutants in packaged form shipped on ships within Mauritian waters and on board Mauritian ships wherever they may be, shall be only in accordance with the IMDG Code.
4. The IMDG Code 2002 Edition which incorporates "Amendment 31" is comprised of two volumes plus a supplement.
5. There are a number of changes under this new Code, some of which are outlined below:
 - Chapter 2.3 – "Flammable liquid" – A table for determining viscous flammable liquids has been added;
 - Chapter 3.2. – "Dangerous Goods List" – Alpha codes are now provided in column (15). These codes correspond to "F" codes for fire and "S" codes for spills in the "Emergency Response Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods", (EmS Guide), this Guide can be found in the Supplement to the IMDG Code;

- Chapter 3.4 – "Limited Quantity" – Adjustments in the quantities allowable for shipment;
- Chapter 5.4 – "Documentation" has been amended with some changes including:
 - the nature and sequence of providing shipping descriptions on the dangerous goods documentation;
 - the requirement to include the name and address of the consignor and consignee and date on the dangerous goods transport document.

The above are only a few examples of the changes. Interested parties are urged to peruse the IMDG Code (Amendment 31-02) in the context of their particular involvement with dangerous goods to ensure their operations remain in compliance with the IMDG Code.

Additionally, IMO type portable tanks and road tank vehicles may continue to be used for the lifetime of the tanks subject to complying with the provisions set out in 3.2.1 (column 12) and in 4.2.0 of the Code. An IMO Circular, "Guidance on the continued use of existing IMO type portable tanks and road tank vehicles for the transport of dangerous goods" will be available very shortly.

Users of the Code should also be aware that "Errata and Corrigenda" to Amendment 31-02 has been issued by the IMO.

6. Upon entry into force of the amendments to Chapter VII of the SOLAS Convention, the IMDG Code has been made mandatory with effect from 1 January 2004. However the provisions of the following parts of the IMDG Code will remain recommendatory:
 - (a) Chapter 1.3 (Training)
 - (b) Chapter 2.1 (Explosives - Introductory Notes 1 to 4);
 - (c) Chapter 2.3, section 2.3.3 (Determination of flashpoint);
 - (d) Chapter 3.2 (columns 15 and 17 of the Dangerous Goods List);
 - (e) Chapter 3.5 (Transport schedule for Class 7 radioactive material);
 - (f) Chapter 5.4, section 5.4.5 (Multimodal dangerous goods form), insofar as layout of the form is concerned;
 - (g) Chapter 7.3 (Special provisions in the event of an incident and fire precautions involving dangerous goods); and
 - (h) Appendix B (Glossary of terms).

Director of Shipping
10th March 2004