

Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-203

- To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (RO's).
- Subject:** Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for ships carrying oil or oil fuel.
- Reference:**
- a) Resolution MSC.239(83) of 12 October 2007, adopted through Resolution No. 106-OMI-57-DGMM of 9 June 2009,
 - b) Resolution MSC.286(86) of 5 June 2009, adopted through Resolution No. 106-OMI-62-DGMM of 8 July 2009.
 - c) Resolution MSC.282(86) of 5 June 2009, adopted through Resolution No. 106-OMI-85-DGMM of 22 November 2010,
 - d) MSC.1/Circ.1303 for Guidance on the Provision for Material Safety Data Sheets when Carrying Oil or Oil Fuel, in Accordance with SOLAS regulation VI/5-1. **(Only as recommendation).**
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Circular is to provide the guidelines on regards to the Material Safety Data Sheet, which entered into force on 1 July 2009.

2. Scope/Applicability

- 2.1. Applies to all ships carrying oil or oil fuel, as defined in MARPOL Annex I, Regulation 1, prior to the loading of such oil as cargo in bulk or bunkering of oil fuel.



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3. Background

3.1. Resolution MSC.239(83) added a new regulation to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, which states the following: “Ships carrying MARPOL Annex I cargoes, as defined in Appendix I to Annex I of the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, and marine fuel oils shall be provided with a material safety data sheet prior to loading of such cargoes based on the recommendations developed by the Organization”. This new regulation entered into force on 1 July 2009.

SOLAS VI regulation 5-1 amended through Resolution MSC.282(86) to indicate that “Ships carrying oil or oil fuel, as defined in regulation 1 of Annex 1 of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, shall be provided with material safety data sheets, based on the recommendations developed by the Organization*, prior to the loading of such oil as cargo in bulk or bunkering of oil fuel.”

Resolution MSC.286(86) of 5 June 2009 provides the IMO recommendations for Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for MARPOL Annex I oil cargo and oil fuel and urges all governments to ensure the supply and carriage of the Material Safety Data Sheet, upon the entry into force of the Resolution.

4. Requirements

4.1. This Administration informs that from 1 July 2009:

4.1.1. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for marine use suitable to meet the particular needs of the marine industry containing safety, handling, and environmental information to be supplied to a ship prior to the loading of MARPOL Annex I type oil as cargo in bulk and the bunkering of oil fuel, shall comply with Recommendations in Annex 1 to the resolution MSC.286(86),

4.1.2. The completion of MSDS for the MARPOL Annex I type oil as cargo in bulk and oil fuel, shall be according to the Guidelines Annex 2 to the resolution MSC.286(86).



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4.2. Resolution MSC.286(86) is annexed to this Merchant Marine Circular.

October, 2023 – Fully revised.

July, 2009.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

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