

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-214

- To:** Ship-Owners/Operators of Panamanian flagged vessels, Recognized Organizations, Masters and Annual Safety Inspectors.
- Subject:** Mandatory Implementation of the Amendments to the IMSBC Code.
- Reference:**
- a) Resolution MSC.269(85) of 4 December 2008 through Resolution No. 106-OMI-75-DGMM of 28 June 2010.
 - b) Resolution MSC.500(105) of 28 April 2022 adopted through Resolution No.107-OMI-267-DGMM dated 20 October 2023.
 - c) Resolution MSC.539(107) on 8 June 2023 which can be applied on a voluntary basis since 1 January 2024. **(Only as recommendation).**
 - d) MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.6 - Lists of Solid Bulk cargoes for which a Fixed Gas Fire-extinguishing system may be exempted or for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system is ineffective, dated 26 June 2023. **Only as recommendation).**

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform about the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) adopted by IMO Res.MSC.268 (85) which will be effective from 01 January 2011.
- 1.2. Amendments to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.500(105) on 28 April 2022 has been adopted by the Republic of Panama through Resolution No.107-OMI-267-DGMM dated 20 October 2023 "2022 Amendments to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code", and entered into force on 1 December 2023.
- 1.3. Furthermore, MSC adopted new Resolution MSC.539(107) on 8 June 2023, where new Amendments to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) are set out for future entry into force on 1 January 2025 (pending for international acceptance period)

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2. Background

2.1. The Republic of Panama adopted the SOLAS 2008 amendments in Resolution No. MSC.269(85) of 4 December 2008 through Resolution No. 106-OMI-75-DGMM of 28 June 2010.

2.2. The IMSBC Code has been amended and the following amendments were adopted by this Administration:

2.2.1. *Resolution MSC. 318 (89) of 20 May 2011*, entered into force on 1 January 2013; and adopted through Resolution No. 106-OMI-105-DGMM of 29 November 2012,

2.2.2. *Resolution MSC. 354 (92) of 21 June 2013*, entered into force on 1 January 2015 adopted through Resolution No. 106-OMI-143-DGMM 31 December 2014,

2.2.3. *Resolution MSC. 393 (95) of 11 June 2015*, entered into force on 1 January 2017 adopted through Resolution No. 106-OMI-182-DGMM of 12 December 2016,

2.2.4. *Resolution MSC. 426 (98) of 15 June 2017*, entered into force on 1 January 2019 through Resolution No. 107-OMI-202-DGMM of 21 November 2018,

2.2.5. *Resolution MSC.462(101) of 13 June 2019*, entered into force on 1 January 2021 adopted through Resolution No. 107-OMI-235-DGMM of 18 May 2020. And on a voluntary basis as from 1 January 2020.

2.2.6. *Resolution MSC.500(105) of 28 April 2022*, shall enter into force on 1 December 2023 adopted through Resolution No. No.107-OMI-267-DGMM dated 20 October 2023, and it can be implemented on a voluntary basis from 1 January 2023

2.3. Resolution MSC.539(107) of 8 June 2023, entered into force on 1 January 2025, and it can be implemented on a voluntary basis from 1 January 2024.

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3. Definitions

3.1. IMSBC Code means the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the Organization by resolution MSC.268(85), as may be amended by the Organization, provided that such amendments are adopted, brought into force and take effect in accordance with the provisions of article VIII of the present Convention concerning the amendment procedures applicable to the Annex other than chapter 1.

3.2. Solid bulk cargo means any cargo, other than liquid or gas, consisting of a combination of particles, granules or any larger pieces of material generally uniform in composition, which is loaded directly into the cargo spaces of a ship without any intermediate form of containment.

4. Scope / Applicability

4.1. All of the ships carrying Solid Bulk Cargoes shall be in compliance with the requirements of the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code on or after 01 January 2011.

5. IMSBC New amendments

5.1. IMSBC 2023 amendments

5.1.1. New solid bulk cargoes in the IMSBC Code Appendix 1 "Individual schedule of solid bulk cargoes" have been added and one of them deleted:

5.1.1.1. Solid bulk cargoes added:

Bulk Cargo Shipping Name	Group	Hazard
CELESTINE CONCENTRATE	A	--
BARYTE, FLOTATION CHEMICAL GRADE	A	--
BARYTE, FLOTATION CHEMICAL GRADE	C	--
CRUSHED GRANODIORITE FINES	A	--
DIRECT REDUCED IRON (D)(By-product fines with moisture content of at least 2%)	A and B	MHB

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DUNITE	C	--
DUNITE FINES	A	--
ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE DUST, PELLETIZED	A and B	MHB
FISH MEAL (FISH SCRAP), STABILIZED Anti-oxidant treated	B	MHB
GROUND GRANULATED BLAST FURNACE SLAG POWDER	A	--
MAGNESITE FINES	A	--
POTASSIUM NITRATE	C	--
SODIUM NITRATE	C	--
SODIUM NITRATE AND POTASSIUM NITRATE MIXTURE	C	--

5.1.1.2. Solid bulk cargoes deleted:

Bulk Cargo Shipping Name	Group	Hazard
FISH MEAL (FISH SCRAP), STABILIZED UN 2216 Anti-oxidant treated	B	UN 2216

5.2. IMSBC 2022 amendments

5.2.1. New solid bulk cargoes in the IMSBC Code Appendix 1 "Individual schedule of solid bulk cargoes" have been added and two of them deleted:

5.2.1.1. Solid bulk cargoes added:

Bulk Cargo Shipping Name	Group	Hazard
AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED FERTILIZER MHB	B	MHB
SUPERPHOSPHATE (triple, granular)	B	MHB
AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED	C	--

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FERTILIZER		
CLAM SHELL	C	--
LEACH RESIDUE CONTAINING LEAD	A and B	MHB

5.2.1.2. Solid bulk cargoes deleted:

Bulk Cargo Shipping Name	Group	Hazard
AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED FERTILIZER (non-hazardous)	C	--
SUPERPHOSPHATE (triple, granular)	C	--

5.3. This Administration encourage all stakeholders to be aware of the latest amendments to the Lists of solid bulk cargoes for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system may be exempted or for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system is ineffective in MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.6 dated 26 June 2023, with the purpose to update the requirements and cargoes eligible to exemption under the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/10.7.1.4. Where a new solid bulk cargo was included in table 1 for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system may be exempted:

Bulk Cargo Shipping Name	Group	Hazard
ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE DUST, PELLETIZED	A and B	MHB

6. Instructions to the Recognized Organizations

6.1. The existing Bulk Cargoes (BC) Code Certificates for the vessels as applicable shall be replaced by the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Certificates by the time of the First Safety Equipment Periodical Survey on or after 01 January 2011 and the ships not having Bulk Cargoes (BC) Certificates or the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Certificates and which will carry Solid Bulk Cargoes shall have Valid International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Certificates before loading on or after the effective date of 01 January 2011.

6.2. This Administration authorizes all Recognized Organizations (ROs) duly approved for issuing the certificates related to Bulk Cargoes (BC) Code 2004 certificate to



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issue the new International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Certificates following the surveys detailed on the previous paragraph.

- 6.3.** Recognized Organizations (ROs) approved to issue the Certificate of Compliance with the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) shall verify the compliance of the 2022 amendments to the Code from 1 December 2023 and to accept the application of the 2023 amendments voluntarily from 1 January 2024.

December, 2023 – Adoption of 2022 amendments and voluntarily implementation of 2023 amendments to the IMSBC Code.

October, 2023 – Fully reviewed.

May, 2020 – Whole review of the Circular.

March, 2020 - This Merchant Marine Circular Replaces MMC-40 and MMC-41.

January, 2011.

December, 2010.

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

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