

Resolution and circulars of the Facilitation Committee

Resolution FAL.12(40)*

8 April 2016

Amendments to the Annex of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965

THE FACILITATION COMMITTEE,

RECALLING article VII(2)(a) of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965, as amended, hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”, concerning the procedure for amending the annex to the Convention,

RECALLING FURTHER the functions which the Convention confers upon the Facilitation Committee for the consideration and adoption of amendments to the Convention,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its fortieth session, amendments to the annex to the Convention proposed and circulated in accordance with article VII(2)(a) thereof,

- 1 ADOPTS, in accordance with article VII(2)(a) of the Convention, the amendments to the Convention, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;
- 2 DETERMINES, in accordance with article VII(2)(b) of the Convention, that the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2018 unless, prior to 1 October 2017, at least one-third of Contracting Governments have notified the Secretary-General in writing that they do not accept the amendments;
- 3 REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in conformity with article VII(2)(a) of the Convention, to communicate the amendments contained in the annex to all Contracting Governments;
- 4 FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to notify all Signatory Governments of the adoption and entry into force of the said amendments.

* Note that only the text relevant to IMO FAL Form 7 of the resolution has been reproduced.

Note: The following amendments and FAL Form 7 were extracted from Resolution FAL.12(40). See footnote on previous page.

“2.8 Standard. The Dangerous Goods Manifest shall be the basic document providing public authorities with the information regarding dangerous goods.

2.8.1 Standard. In the Dangerous Goods Manifest public authorities shall not require more than the following information:

- name of ship
- IMO number
- call sign
- voyage number
- flag State of ship
- port of loading
- port of discharge
- stowage position
- reference number
- marks and numbers
 - freight container identification No(s).
 - vehicle registration No(s).
- UN Number
- proper shipping name/(Technical Specifications)
- class/(subsidiary risk(s))
- packing group
- additional information/marine pollutant/flash point/etc.
- number and kind of packages
- mass (kg) or volume (L)
- EmS
- shipping agent.



FAL.6/Circ.12

11 July 2005

Difficulties encountered in the shipment of IMDG Code class 7 radioactive material and, in particular, cobalt-60

1 The Facilitation Committee, at its thirty-first (19 to 23 July 2004) and thirty-second (4 to 8 July 2005) sessions, considered the increasing difficulties encountered in the worldwide shipment of cobalt-60, an IMDG Code class 7 radioactive material with UN 2916.*

2 The Committee, at its thirty-second session (4 to 8 July 2005), bearing in mind the conclusions and recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers, which considered the matter from the technical point of view at its ninth session (27 September to 1 October 2004), and the results of the consideration of the issue by the International Atomic Energy Agency, in an effort to foster the alleviation of the difficulties encountered, adopted the Advice on the shipment of IMDG Code class 7 radioactive material and, in particular, cobalt-60, which is set out in the annex.

3 Member Governments are urged to bring this circular and the annexed Advice to the attention of their Public Authorities, of owners, operators and masters of ships entitled to fly their flag and of owners and operators of ports located within the area under their jurisdiction.

4 The Committee remains, in particular, concerned about the potential adverse consequences the denial of shipment of IMDG Code class 7 radioactive materials used in medical applications, for example cobalt-60 and those radioisotopes used in radiotherapy and nuclear medicine in general, might have on public health.

5 Member Governments and non-governmental organizations with consultative status are urged to bring to the attention of the Committee any instances, together with the associated reasons, where the shipment of IMDG class 7 radioactive materials and, in particular those which have medical or public health applications, encounter difficulties or are refused aboard ship or in or through ports, so as to enable the Committee to consider the matter further and to determine the actions required.

Annex

Advice on the shipment of IMDG Code class 7 radioactive material and, in particular, cobalt-60

General

1 Shipping and handling of IMDG Code class 7 radioactive materials, when carried out in compliance with the relevant provisions of SOLAS chapter VII, the IMDG Code and the recommendations contained in MSC/Circ.675 on Recommendations on the safe transport of dangerous cargoes and related activities in port areas, should be considered as meeting the necessary safety requirements and should be facilitated.

Specific advice related to transport of cobalt-60

2 Cobalt-60, a non-fissile IMDG Code class 7 radioactive material with UN 2916, is used to sterilize approximately 45% of all single-use medical supplies used worldwide, such as syringes, surgeons' gloves, bandages, and a wide variety of other products. Cobalt-60 is also relied upon to sterilize a vast array of consumer products and is used to make the food supply safer by eliminating food pathogens and to reduce the incidence of disease-carrying insects. Finally, cobalt-60 is one of the radioisotopes used in the treatment of cancer.

3 Cobalt-60 emits high-energy gamma rays that are used to eliminate harmful micro-organisms, bacteria and pathogens from a variety of products, including single-use surgical and medical supplies, lab ware, packing materials, pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, raw materials, spices, fruits, seafood, poultry and red meat. The gamma rays kill micro-organisms, bacteria and pathogens, without damaging the product, thus preventing the spread of diseases and infections. The radiation treatment process does not induce radioactivity in the product. After the completion of the radiation process the product is available for immediate use.

* The Committee was advised, at its thirty-first session, that difficulties were also encountered with the shipment of tantalite, an iron manganese tantalum niobium oxide, which is an inert ore shipped in bulk and which is classified as IMDG Code class 7 radioactive material.

4 The transport of cobalt-60 has a humanitarian dimension and is critical to the interest of public health and is thus for the benefit of society at large. The use of sterile disposable medical products in clinics and hospitals worldwide is linked directly to a reasonable and safe system for international supply and delivery of cobalt-60. The rising number of incidents of denial of shipments of cobalt-60 are seriously jeopardizing this supply and as a result this trend is having a negative impact on global health care.

Efforts of the IAEA

5 The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in an effort to assist in the alleviation of the difficulties encountered in the shipment of IMDG Code class 7 radioactive materials has, inter alia, developed:

- .1 a half-day Training programme for cargo handlers. This programme can be dovetailed to the existing training programmes on handling dangerous goods;
- .2 a half-day Training programme for Public Authorities. This programme familiarizes Public Authorities with the safety standards so that IMDG Code class 7 radioactive material is moved safely and smoothly; and
- .3 a Radiation protection programme specifically for Public Authorities which is to be included in a Safety Guide which is under preparation.

6 Further details in relation to the aforesaid programmes may be obtained from the IAEA.*

Recommended actions

7 Member Governments and those concerned should facilitate the efficient, cost-effective and expeditious handling and shipment of cobalt-60 aboard ships and in and through ports, provided it is shipped in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 1, because, ultimately, national populations rely on this material and, therefore, Governments have a vested interest in facilitating its transport.

8 Member Governments should work with relevant national authorities and industry associations to raise awareness of these matters as a means to help alleviate the difficulties encountered in the shipment of IMDG Code class 7 radioactive materials and in particular cobalt-60.

* Refer to <http://www.iaea.org/>.

FAL.6/Circ.15

12 July 2006

Difficulties encountered in the shipment of dangerous cargoes and, in particular, sporting ammunition and related components (IMDG Code division 1.4S)

- 1 The Facilitation Committee, at its thirty-third session (3 to 7 July 2006), considered the difficulties encountered in the worldwide shipment of dangerous cargoes and in particular sporting ammunition (cartridges with inert projectile) and related components UN 0012, classified as IMDG Code division 1.4S.
- 2 The Committee, in an effort to foster the alleviation of the difficulties encountered, adopted the Advice on the shipment of sporting ammunition and related components (IMDG Code division 1.4S), which is set out in the annex.
- 3 The Committee remains concerned about the potential adverse effects the denial of shipment of dangerous cargoes might have on international trade and expeditious handling and shipment of such cargoes.
- 4 Member Governments and international organizations are urged to bring to the attention of the Committee any instances, together with the associated reasons, where the shipment of dangerous cargoes encounter difficulties or are refused aboard ship or in or through ports, so as to enable the Committee to consider the matter further and to determine the actions required.
- 5 Member Governments are urged to bring this Circular and the annexed Advice to the attention of their Public Authorities, of owners, operators and masters of ships entitled to fly their flag and of owners and operators of ports located within the area under their jurisdiction.

Annex

Advice on the shipment of dangerous cargoes and, in particular, sporting ammunition and related components (IMDG Code division 1.4S)

General

1 Shipping and handling of dangerous cargoes, including IMDG Code division 1.4S materials, when carried out in compliance with the relevant provisions of SOLAS chapter VII, the IMDG Code and the recommendations contained in Recommendations on the safe transport of dangerous cargoes and related activities in port areas (MSC/Circ.675, as amended), should be considered as meeting the necessary safety requirements and should be facilitated.

Specific advice

2 Materials of IMDG Code division 1.4S are recognized worldwide as being among the safest products of IMDG Code class 1, with an excellent safety record. These materials are so packed and designed that any hazardous effects arising from accidental functioning are confined within the packages unless the package has been degraded by fire, in which case all blast or projection effects are limited to the extent that they do not scientifically hinder firefighting or other emergency response efforts in the immediate vicinity of the package.

3 In the IMDG Code, part 3, dangerous goods list, all prescriptions for the shipment are established on the basic concept that class 1.4S products are extremely safe for transport. In fact these goods belong to stowage category 5 (IMDG Code, 7.1.7.2 to 7.1.7.5.5) for which is prescribed the same stowage system both for cargo or passenger ships. Products in division 1.4S may be transported in any amount on passenger ships (IMDG Code, 7.1.5.2). They can be stowed in the outermost row (IMDG Code, 7.1.7.4.1.2), without stowage level containment prescription (IMDG Code, 7.7.1.4) and are exempt from stowage provisions related to securement (IMDG Code, 7.1.7.4.4) and separation from living quarters and machinery spaces (IMDG Code, 7.1.7.4.6) for class 1 (IMDG Code, 7.1.7.3).

Recommended actions

4 Member Governments and those concerned should facilitate the efficient, cost-effective and expeditious handling and shipment of dangerous cargoes including IMDG Code division 1.4S materials aboard ships and in and through ports, provided that these cargoes are shipped in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 1.

5 Member Governments should work with relevant national authorities and industry associations to raise awareness of the provisions of SOLAS chapter VII, the IMDG Code and the recommendations contained in Recommendations on the safe transport of dangerous cargoes and related activities in port areas (MSC/Circ.675, as amended), in order to help alleviate the difficulties encountered in the shipment of dangerous cargoes.



