

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-214

To: Ship-Owners/Operators of Panamanian flagged vessels, Recognized Organizations, Masters and Annual Safety Inspectors.

Subject: Implementation of the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code.

Reference: Resolution MSC.462(101) adopted by Resolution No. 107-OMI-235-DGMM of May 18, 2020.

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 (MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.4 of June 13, 2019 and its subsequent amendments).

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this circular is to inform about the amendments to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.462(101) on 13 June 2019 which will be enter into force on 01 January 2021.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. **IMSBC** Code means the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization by Resolution MSC.268(85), as may be amended, provided that such amendments are adopted, brought into force and take effect in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII of the SOLAS Convention concerning the amendment procedures applicable to the Annex other than Chapter I.



Merchant Marine Circular

- 2.2. **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.

3. Preamble

- 3.1. Amendments (05-19) to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code will enter into force on 1 January 2021 and can be implemented in whole or in part on a voluntary basis as from 1 January 2020.

- 3.2. New individual cargoes and carriage requirements has been added to Group B (cargoes that possess a chemical hazard which could give rise to a dangerous situation on a ship), as follows:

- Flue Dust, containing Lead and Zinc.
- Matte containing Copper and Lead.
- Metal Sulphide concentrates, self-heating UN 3190.
- Seed Cakes and Other Residues of Processed Oily Vegetables.
- Zinc Oxide-Enriched Flue Dust.

- 3.3. Other amendments to the IMSBC Code include:

- The 'Characteristics' table, which has been replaced for each individual cargo schedule to clarify the Hazard Classification (subsidiary hazard(s) and MHB).
- The existing individual schedule for "Seed Cake (non-hazardous)" is deleted.
- Addition of a Group A cargo schedule for Bauxite Fines and a corresponding test procedure for determining transportable moisture limit (TML) of Bauxite cargoes.



Merchant Marine Circular

- 3.4.** New revised 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 was also adopted by MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.4 dated on 13 June 2019, this circular supersedes MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.3 dated on June 17, 2017; consequently, the Maritime Safety Committee approved MSC/Circ.671 whereby it agreed to:

3.4.1 a list of solid bulk cargoes, for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system may be exempted (table 1). This Administration will take into account the information contained in table 1 when granting exemptions under the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/10.7.1.4; and

3.4.2 a list of solid bulk cargoes for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system is ineffective (table 2), and recommended that cargo spaces in a ship engaged in the carriage of cargoes listed in table 2 be provided with a fire-extinguishing system which provides equivalent protection. This Administration will take account the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/19.3.1 when determining suitable requirements for an equivalent fire-extinguishing system.

4. Certification According to IMO Resolution MSC.462(101)

- 4.1.** 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 (MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.4 dated on 13 June 2019, and its subsequent amendments), with the purpose to update the requirements and cargoes eligible to exemption under the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/10.7.1.4.
- 4.2.** Recognized Organizations (RO's) approved to issue the Certificate of Compliance with the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) shall verify the compliance with the new amendments to the Code as applicable.

May, 2020 – Whole review of the Circular.

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

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Merchant Marine Circular

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