



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौचहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI



**F. No. 25-53011/3/2023-NT-DGS(26453)**

**Date: 22/12/2023**

**DGS Order: 26 of 2023**

**Subject: Amendments to Chapter VII-Carriage of Dangerous Goods under International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974(SOLAS), and its applicability- reg.**

Whereas, the Government of India has ratified the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), and the Convention entered into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1980 through accession. The Convention as modified by the protocol of 1988 entered into force on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2000 through accession. Article 1 of the Convention mandates the general obligation of the Government to undertake all measures which may be necessary to give effect to the Convention. Chapter VII of SOLAS outlines mandatory regulations for transporting dangerous goods in packaged form.

Moreover, the Government of India has acceded to the Annexure III of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL), modified by the 1978 Protocol, which includes in its obligatory measures to prevent pollution from harmful substances transported by sea in packaged form.

Whereas, the IMDG Code was developed as an international code for the transport of dangerous goods in packaged form, in order to enhance and harmonize the safe carriage of dangerous goods and to prevent marine pollution. The General Assembly at its 77<sup>th</sup> Session in 2002 adopted Resolution A.716 (17), giving the IMDG Code a mandatory status under the umbrella of SOLAS Convention, from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2004.

Whereas, compliance with these regulations involves adhering to the pertinent instructions stipulated under the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code, which is viewed as an extension of the provisions outlined in SOLAS Chapter VII. MARPOL Annexure III further extends the IMDG Code and contains general requirements for the issuing of detailed standards on packing, marking, labelling, documentation, stowage, quantity limitations, exceptions and notifications.

Whereas, the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended incorporates the Convention and is defined at Section 3 (37) as "Safety Convention" means the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea signed in London on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 1974 as amended from time to time. Further, the mandatory Codes as indicated in the Convention and its amendments from time to time is in effect and applicable to Indian vessels and foreign vessels sailing within Indian jurisdiction.

Whereas, The Merchant Shipping Act, incorporates Carriage of Dangerous Goods under Section 331 and provides enforcement provisions under Section 436 Clauses (1) and (2).

Whereas, the Government has issued Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Cargo) Rules, 1995 as a

9वीं मंजिल, बीटा बिल्डिंग, आई थिंक टेक्नो कैम्पस, कांजुर गाँव रोड, कांजुरमार्ग (पूर्व) मुंबई- 400042

9th Floor, BETA Building, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjur Village Road, Kanjurmarg (E), Mumbai-400042

फ़ोन/Tel No.: +91-22-2575 2040/1/2/3 फ़ैक्स/Fax.: +91-22-2575 2029/35 ई-मेल/Email: dgship-dgs@nic.in वेबसाइट/Website: www.dgshipping.gov.in



measure to give effect to the Convention and as referred under Rule 2(s), "International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) code" means the International Maritime Dangerous Goods code adopted by the International Maritime Organisation as amended from time to time. Additionally, under Part III, Rule 9 states that every ship carrying Dangerous goods in packaged form, unless expressly provided otherwise, shall comply with the requirements of the IMDG Code.

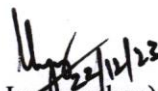
Furthermore, the Government has issued various notices and circulars from time to time providing instructions on the Carriage of Dangerous Goods. These include but are not limited to, MS Notice 06 of 2023, 02.05.2023 on Interim Requirements for Ships Carrying Liquefied Hydrogen; MS Notice 04 of 2018, 25.07.2018 on Process for approval of Dangerous Goods Packaging Test Centre's; MS Notice 02 of 2016 on Issuance of Document of Compliance for the carriage of dangerous goods on Indian flag cargo ships-reg; MS Notice 21 of 2010, 08.11.2010 on Safe Carriage of cargoes and oil fuels by sea; DGS Circular 01 of 2020, 07.08.2020 on Maritime advisory for the Safe Preparation, Storage, handling and shipment of dangerous goods-reg. Further, guidance on 'to the satisfaction of the Administration' is issued vide MS Notice 15 of 2023 on 09.11.2023.

Whereas, the Recognised Organizations (RO) were notified vide notification dated 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2014, and as indicated, an agreement is entered into with each RO to carryout surveys and certification as per the SOLAS.

Noting that, IMO has issued various amendments to the SOLAS from time to time, which is annexed to this Order at "Annexure- 1". As defined in the Merchant Shipping Act, such amendments to the Convention are already in effect and applicable to Indian vessels and foreign vessels sailing within Indian jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the IMDG Code is amended on a two-year cycle and the current IMDG Code, 2022 Edition (inc. Amendment 41-22) comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 and may be applied voluntarily as from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023. Additionally, the IMDG Code Supplement, 2022 Edition renders obsolete the previous 2020 edition. The amendments from time to time to the IMDG Code shall be effective and applicable to Indian vessels and foreign vessels sailing within Indian jurisdiction.

The stakeholders are therefore advised to be guided by this Order towards compliance with the provisions to give full effect to the Conventions and the mandatory Codes.

  
(Shyam Jagannathan)

Director General of Shipping

To,

All Stakeholders through DGS Website

# Annexure-1

## Chapter VII of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as modified by the protocol of 1988 relating thereto

Amendments	Adopted		Effective Date	Amendments to the Chapter	
	By	Date		VII	Appendix
1983 Amendments	Res.MSC.6(48)	17.Jun.1983	01.Jul.1986	1~13 (Compl etely revised)	
1989 Amendments	Res.MSC.13(57)	11.Apr.1989	01.Feb.1992	7	
1991 Amendments	Res.MSC.22(59)	23.May.1991	01.Jan.1994	5,7-1(new)	
1994 Amendments	Res.MSC.42(64)	09.Dec.1994	01.Jul.1996	5.6, 6.1	
1996 Amendments	Res.MSC.57(67)	05.Dec.1996	01.Jul.1998	2, 7.1.5	
1998 Amendments	Res.MSC.69(69)	20.May.1998	01.Jul.2002	5.6(ael),6	
1999 Amendments	Res.MSC.87(71)	27.May.1999	01.Jan.2001	1.3,14~16 (new)	
2001 Amendments	Res.MSC.117(74)	06.Jun.2001	01.Jan.2003	14.2	
2002 Amendments to 74 SOLAS	Res.MSC.123(75)	24.May.2002	01.Jan.2004	1~6, 7~7-4, 14	Certificates (Form P, Form R)
2004 Amendments	Res.MSC.170(79)	09.Dec.2004	01.Jul.2006	10	
2008 Amendments	Res.MSC.269(85),An nex2	04.Dec.2008	01.Jan.2011	7-1, 7-5	
2012 Amendments	Res.MSC.325(90)	24.May.2012	01.Jan.2014	4	