

Local Vessels Advisory Committee

Proposal to Set up an Enhanced Management Mechanism for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Locally Licensed Vessels

Purpose

This paper seeks members' views on a proposal to set up an enhanced management mechanism for the carriage of dangerous goods by locally licensed vessels.

Background

2. At present, a "Carriage Permit", which may be valid for up to three months, must be obtained for dangerous goods other than in category 1 to be carried on board a locally licensed vessel. Within the permit's validity, the vessel concerned may carry on board dangerous goods in any of the categories it is permitted to carry at any time and any declared location without further notifying the Marine Department (MD). In this manner, it is difficult for the MD, as the authority for monitoring the safe carriage of dangerous goods by sea, to capture the latest information on the movement of vessels and the dangerous goods carried on board.

3. The enhanced management mechanism being proposed will enable the MD to capture the latest information on dangerous goods other than in category 1 carried on board locally licensed vessels, which will in turn enhance port safety, strengthen protection for life and property at sea and maintain Hong Kong's good reputation as an international port. A key feature of the new mechanism is the introduction of a "notification system" designed to be as user-friendly as possible without incurring any additional charge.

The proposal

4. Under the new management mechanism, a "Carriage Permit" for dangerous goods other than in category 1 must be obtained in advance for a locally licensed vessel intended for the carriage of such goods and, within the permit's validity, information on the voyage and the goods must be provided to the MD, by way of notification in the specified manner,

every time before the goods are to be handled or carried on board. The details are as follows:

- “Carriage Permit” for dangerous goods other than in category 1
 - Its application procedures and fees will be the same as those of the existing “Carriage Permit”, but the validity will be extended from a maximum of three months to one year. The vessel must also possess a valid Declaration of Fitness (D.O.F.) within the permit’s validity; otherwise the permit will be deemed invalid; and
 - Additional conditions will be specified in the permit, requiring the vessel’s owner or agent to notify the MD, in accordance with the designated notification system, of the information on the voyage and the dangerous goods to be carried every time before such goods are to be handled or carried on board.
- The newly introduced “notification system”
 - For each voyage, an owner or agent shall, not less than 24 hours before dangerous goods are to be handled or carried on board, notify the MD of the information on the voyage and the goods in the prescribed form (Annex I) through the MD’s Electronic Business System (eBS), by e-mail or by fax. If on reasonable ground part or all of the information required cannot be provided in time, the outstanding information should be provided as soon as possible afterwards. Under exceptional circumstances where the telephone is the only available means of communication, the Dangerous Goods Unit of the MD may first be provided with the relevant information by phone at 2852 4913 as a provisional notification (telephone recording system in operation outside office hours). The information required should be provided to the MD in the prescribed form set out in Annex I as soon as possible afterwards through the MD’s eBS, by e-mail or by fax;
 - Notification of any amendment to the information previously provided should be submitted in another prescribed form (Annex II) in the manner stated above; and
 - Successful submission of the notifications through eBS will be confirmed instantly online. For notifications submitted by e-mail or fax,

the record of the relevant e-mail or fax will be taken as proof of submission. For provisional notifications submitted through the telephone recording system, the relevant telephone recording kept by the Dangerous Goods Unit of the MD will be taken as proof of submission.

Consultation

5. The industry concerned provided their invaluable comments during the two rounds of consultation conducted by the MD in August and December last year, and at the seminar on dangerous goods operation in November. They generally supported the proposed management mechanism. The views collected have been incorporated, where appropriate, into the proposal set out in paragraph 4 above.

Implementation Date

6. The above proposal is expected to come into operation in 2012 after the details have been finalised and the industry notified of such.

Recommendation

7. Members are invited to endorse the proposal and the implementation date stated in paragraphs 4 and 6 above.

Presentation

8. Mr. Ivan SHUEN, SMO/DG&P of the MD, will present this paper to members.

Dangerous Goods and Prosecution Section

Port Control Division

Marine Department

March 2011

To: Dangerous Goods Unit, Marine Department

Notification Form

Name of Ship: _____

Call sign/MD ref. no.: _____

No. of "Carriage Permit" for dangerous goods other than in category 1: _____

No. of page(s): _____ (if space below is insufficient, use a separate sheet of paper)

Information on the dangerous goods to be handled/carried:

Name of goods and/or UN No.	Classification (Hong Kong category no. or IMO class)	Quantity* (kg/L)	Remarks

* The quantity specified should be as exact as possible.

Proposed date, time and location for the handling/carriage of the dangerous goods:

Sequence	Date (dd/mm/yy)	Starting time (24-hour clock)	Location	Remarks (handling/loading/ unloading)
1				
2				
3				
4				

Owner/agent of ship: _____

Notification date: _____ Signature/stamp: _____

Notes: 1. This form can be submitted through the MD's eBS, by email (pfdg@mardep.gov.hk) or by fax (2815 8596).

2. Information given in this form will only be used as internal reference within the Government for the purpose of managing the carriage of dangerous goods.

To: Dangerous Goods Unit, Marine Department

Notification Form (Amendment of Information)

Name of Ship: _____

Call sign/ MD ref. no.: _____

No. of "Carriage Permit" for dangerous goods other than in category 1: _____

No. of page(s): _____ *(if space below is insufficient, use a separate sheet of paper)*

Information to be amended

Information on the dangerous goods to be handled/carried:

<u>Information previously provided</u>	<u>Information after amendment</u>	Remarks

Proposed date, time and location for the handling/carriage of the dangerous goods:

<u>Information previously provided</u>	<u>Information after amendment</u>	Remarks

Owner/agent of ship: _____

Notification date: _____ Signature/stamp: _____

- Notes:
1. This form can be submitted through the MD's eBS, by email (pfdg@mardep.gov.hk) or by fax (2815 8596).
 2. Information given in this form will only be used as internal reference within the Government for the purpose of managing the carriage of dangerous goods.