

PROVISIONAL LOCAL VESSEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Control of Pollution from Noxious Liquid Substances listed under
Chapter 18 of the IBC Code when Carried in Bulk**

**Merchant Shipping (Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid
Substances in Bulk) Regulations (Cap.413 Sub. Leg. B)**

Purpose

This paper seeks members' endorsement on the proposal to include the control of pollution of noxious liquid substances listed under Chapter 18 of the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) onboard locally licensed vessels.

Background

2. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 and its 1978 Protocol (i.e. the "MARPOL Convention") was introduced with an aim to eliminating deliberate or negligent pollution of the marine environment by oil, chemical and other pollution substances. The MARPOL Convention is enforced in Hong Kong through the Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Ordinance (Cap.413) and its subsidiary legislation.

3. The requirement of the control of pollution by noxious liquid substances in bulk is enforced through the Merchant Shipping (Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk) Regulations (Cap.413 Sub. Leg. B) and applies to Hong Kong registered ships, locally licensed vessels and ships in the Hong Kong waters.

4. In recent years, there is an increase in number of oil tankers carrying vegetable oils in addition to petroleum product. More vessels are now built to carry vegetable oils. Vegetable oils are noxious liquid substances when carried in bulk. They are classified as Category D chemicals under Chapter 18 of the IBC Code.

Marine Department considers that there is a need to control the pollution arising from the carriage of vegetable oils and other noxious liquid substances listed under Chapter 18 of the IBC Code onboard chemical tankers as required under Annex II of MARPOL 73/78.

Proposal

5. The Merchant Shipping (Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk) Regulations (Cap.413 Sub. Leg. B) is required to be amended to include the noxious liquid substances listed under Chapter 18 of the IBC Code. The inclusion will require owners of the locally licensed vessels when carrying the noxious liquid substances listed under Chapter 18 of the IBC Code to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

6. For locally licensed oil tankers intending to carry or have been carrying vegetable oils and other noxious liquid substances listed under Chapter 18 of the IBC Code, owners of the vessels should observe the following requirements as stipulated in the Regulations in addition to the requirements laid down in the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) Regulations for oil tankers: -

- (i) to provide an approved Procedures and Arrangements Manual complying with the IMO Standards;
- (ii) to have the noxious liquid cargo record book for the cargo operation, cleaning and ballasting of cargo tanks and discharge of ballast or residues from cargo tanks;
- (iii) to provide an approved combined oil and chemicals pollution emergency plan, namely, "Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan" onboard the vessel of 150 gross tonnage and above not later than 1 January 2003; and
- (iv) to arrange inspection by surveyors from the Marine Department and the subsequent issuance or endorsement of the Hong Kong Pollution Prevention Certificate for the Carriage of Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk.

7. For chemical tankers that are going to carry or have been carrying vegetable oil or other noxious liquid substances listed under Chapter 18 of the IBC Code,

owners of the vessels should observe the following requirements: -

- (i) to amend the existing Procedures and Arrangements Manual to include the additional cargo, e.g. vegetable oils, etc., and be re-approved by the Marine Department; and
- (ii) to provide an approved Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan for handling of noxious liquid substances onboard the vessel of 150 gross tonnage and above not later than 1 January 2003.

Legislative Amendment

8. The Merchant Shipping (Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk) Regulations will be amended to include the noxious liquid substances listed under Chapter 18 of the IBC Code into the definition of the “noxious liquid substance” in the Regulations.

Endorsement sought

9. Members’ endorsement of the proposal outlined above in paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8 is sought.

Presentation

10. This paper will be presented by Mr. CHENG Yeung-ming, Senior Surveyor / Technical Policy 2 for discussion in the PLVAC meeting to be held on 4 May 2001.

Technical Policy Branch
Multi-lateral Policy Division
Marine Department
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