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CIRCULAR

IMSBC Code – 8th Amendment

Notice to: Ship Owners/ Managers/ Operators/ Surveyors/ Auditors

C26054 | 24 November 2026

This Circular is issued to advise that the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code 8th Amendment, which was adopted by the IMO MSC 110th session, will enter into force on 1 January 2027, and will thereafter be mandatory for all ships loading solid bulk cargoes. The amendments can be found in the Annex to Resolution MSC.575(110).

Key Points to note:

- The following cargoes are newly introduced into Group A:
  - Apatite Concentrate,
  - Phosphate Rock Fines (uncalcined).

- The following cargoes are newly introduced into Group B:
  - Aluminium Sulphate Granular, IMO class MHB,
  - Ferric Sulphate Granular, IMO class MHB.

- The following cargoes are amended in Group B:
  - Fish Meal (Fish Scrap), Stabilized (change of IMO class from MHB to 9, UN Nr. 2216).

- The following cargoes are newly introduced into Group C:
  - Asphalt Granulates,
  - Crushed Granodiorite, Coarse,
  - Fish Meal (Fish Scrap), Stabilized (different from that in Group B),
  - Iron Ore Briquettes,
  - Pea Protein Concentrate Pellets,
  - Tuff, Coarse,

- Zinc Slag (coarse).

- For vessels carrying Coal or Brown Coal Briquettes there is an additional requirement that “No Naked Flames” signs be posted in conspicuous places, besides the existing requirement for “No Smoking” signs. Apart from that, there is no additional technical requirement.

- The IMSBC Code fitness certificate may be re-issued on or after 1 Jan 2027 at the request of the owners/managers or at the first survey.

- The list of cargoes for Exemption Certificates (for Fixed Fire Extinguishing Arrangements in cargo spaces) relating to safety equipment certificates which are issued as per MSC/Circ.1395 will be revised from Rev.6 to Rev.7 on 1 Jan 2027. In this respect, the following cargoes will be added in the list:

    - Aluminium Sulphate Granular, IMO class MHB,
    - Castor Beans UN Nr. 2969,
    - Ferric Sulphate Granular.

Act now

All Ship Owners / Managers / Operators should ensure that they request the re-issuance of their IMSBC Code fitness certificates in a timely manner, and take heed of the amendments to specific cargoes and technical requirements.

DBS has already revised its procedures, certificate forms and their attachments with cargo groups to be applied on 1 January 2027. Surveyors / Auditors should ensure they are familiar with the 8th amendment of the IMSBC Code.