



MARINE SAFETY AGENCY

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE No. M.1589

The Merchant Shipping (IBC Code) (Amendment) Regulations 1994

The Merchant Shipping (BCH Code) (Amendment) Regulations 1994

The Merchant Shipping (Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk) (Amendment) Regulations 1994

1. The above regulations apply to all ships carrying hazardous cargoes and they control the loading, carriage, markings, unloading, discharge of residues and tank washing after carriage of such substances. The revision of the above regulations came into force on 1 September 1994.

2. The Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Conventions and the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Conventions contain regulations controlling the carriage of dangerous and polluting liquids in bulk by ships. Both conventions make use of the codes to provide detailed requirements for this purpose. The amendments to the Merchant Shipping Regulations give effect to the conventions amendments adopted by the International Maritime Organisation on 30 October 1992 by Resolutions MEPC 55(33), MEPC 56(33) and MEPC 57(33), these came into effect on 1 July 1994.

3. The main changes to be noted are:

- (a) IBC Code chapters 8 and 15, dealing with cargo tank venting systems and special requirements for certain substances have been updated to allow simplified procedures of assessment and improvements in constructional standards.
- (b) IBC Code (1994 edition) chapters 17 and 18 now contain the only corrected and up to date list of the summaries of minimum requirements and list of chemicals to which the code does not apply. The lists contained in the BCH Code and MARPOL Annex II Appendix II and III will be replaced by a reference to the IBC Code.

- (c) A new chapter 20 dealing with liquid chemical wastes has been added to the code.

- (d) The Antarctic Area has been designated as a Special Area thereby restricting operational discharges in that area still further and the list of substances attached to MARPOL Annex II has been transferred to the IBC code.

4. Further changes to note that do not stem from the amendments to SOLAS and MARPOL are:

- (a) The introduction of a clause permitting equivalent measures adopted by member states of the European Community to be accepted.
- (b) The removal of the exemption to certain ships from complying with the above Codes, this is to prevent old ships which fall below current standards from using UK territorial waters.

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