



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Guidance on the Carriage of Dangerous Goods in Limited Quantities Intended for Retail Sale on UK Domestic Ferries

Notice to all Ship Owners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters and Officers of Merchant Ships, Agents, Charterers, Cargo Packers, Cargo Consolidators, Hauliers, Freight Forwarders, Shippers, Consignors, Training Providers, Inspectors of Cargoes, Port Authorities, Terminal Operators, Passengers and others involved in the transport of dangerous goods and other cargoes carried in cargo transport units by sea.

This notice should be read with amendment (32-04) to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code.

PLEASE NOTE:-

Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel and you should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

Summary

This Marine Guidance Note outlines the required standard of compliance with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code when transporting retail goods in limited quantities on domestic ferries.

1. Introduction

Recognising that modern logistics operations depend on the ability to break down the outer packaging in order to allow individual packs of products to be supplied to the point of sale outlet the following describes equivalent arrangements to Chapter 3.4 of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code for vessels operating in UK waters only.

2. Application

2.1 This guidance is not applicable to retail goods where the destination of the sea voyage is outside the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

2.2 This guidance addresses the paragraphs of Chapter 3.4 (Limited Quantities) of the IMDG Code (Amendment 32-04) which are reproduced below and any variation from the Code to permit the carriage of retail goods on domestic ferries or guidance text is given ***bold italics*** in paragraph 3.

3. Standard of compliance with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code

3.1 General

IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.1: The provisions of this chapter concern the transport of dangerous goods of certain classes packed in limited quantities. The applicable inner packaging quantity limit for the inner packaging or article is specified for each substance in Column 7 of the Dangerous Goods List in chapter 3.2. In addition, the word "None" has been indicated in Column 7 of the Dangerous Goods List in chapter 3.2 for each entry not permitted to be transported in accordance with this chapter. The full provisions of this Code apply equally to limited quantities except as provided elsewhere in this **guidance**.

3.2 Packing:

.1 IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.2.1

Dangerous goods transported according to these special provisions shall be packaged only in inner packagings placed in suitable outer packaging. The packagings shall meet the provisions of paragraphs 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2 and 4.1.1.4 to 4.1.1.8 and be so designed that they meet the construction provisions of paragraph 6.1.4. The total gross mass of a package shall not exceed 30kg.

.2 IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.2.2

Shrink- or stretch-wrapped trays meeting the conditions of paragraphs 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2 and 4.1.1.4 to 4.1.1.8 are acceptable as outer packagings for articles or inner packagings containing dangerous goods transported in accordance with these special provisions, except that inner packagings that are liable to break or be easily punctured, such as those made of glass, porcelain, stoneware or certain plastics, materials etc., shall not be transported in such packagings. The total gross mass of a package shall not exceed 20 kg

3.3 Reusable boxes

The use of a reusable box is permitted. The term reusable boxes is intended to address a box meeting the definition in IMDG Code chapter 1.2 but intended for regular reuse often in the final distribution of goods from warehouse to end user, distributor or retailer. Such boxes shall retain the contents in the event of a spillage, under normal conditions of use, with a lid that is capable of being fixed onto the base.

Crates, such as the example given below are not permitted.



Crates, such as the example below, are permitted



The box and contents must be capable of meeting the general provisions as set out in 3.2 above.

In addition:

- **Voids must be filled to ensure secure stowage. When packing a mix of retail goods in limited quantities in an outer box the items must be packed in such a way that there can be no unnecessary movement which could lead to breakage or damage (i.e. fill any spaces between any goods including goods not classified as dangerous).**
- **The gross mass of the box must not exceed 30 kg.**

3.4 Stowage (**Information for the ship**)

IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.3 Notwithstanding the stowage provisions indicated in the Dangerous Goods List, dangerous goods transported under the provisions of this chapter are allocated stowage category A.

3.5 Segregation:

IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.4.1 Different dangerous goods in limited quantities may be packaged in the same outer packaging (**reusable box**), provided the segregation provisions of chapter 7.2 are taken into account and the goods will not interact dangerously in the event of leakage.

IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.4.2 The segregation provisions of chapter 7.2 are not applicable for packagings containing dangerous goods in limited quantities or in relation to other dangerous goods.

3.6 Marking and Labelling:

IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.5.1 Packages of dangerous goods transported in accordance with the special provisions of this chapter:

.1 need not be labelled nor bear the marine pollutant mark;

.2 need not be marked with the Proper Shipping Name of the contents, but shall be marked with the UN Number of the contents (preceded by the letters "UN") placed within a diamond. The width of the line forming the diamond shall be at least 2 mm; the number shall be at least 6 mm high.

Where more than one substance assigned to different UN Numbers are included in the package, either

(i) the diamond shall be large enough to include each relevant UN Number.

or

(ii) the diamond shall contain the letters LQ

IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.5.2 Cargo transport units containing dangerous goods in only limited quantities need not be placarded. They shall, however, be suitably marked on the exterior as "LIMITED QUANTITIES" or "LTD QTY" not less than 65 mm high in accordance with paragraph 5.3.2.4.

3.7 Documentation

IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.6.1 In addition to the provisions for documentation specified in chapter 5.4, the words "limited quantity" or "LTD QTY" shall be included on the dangerous goods declaration together with the description of the shipment.

3.8 Exemptions

IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.7 Limited quantities of dangerous goods for personal or household use that are packaged and distributed in a form intended or suitable for sale through retail agencies are in addition exempt from marking of the UN Number on the packaging.

However, this exemption does not apply to the packing in which such limited quantities are transported and which shall be labelled in accordance with paragraph 3.4.5.

3.9 Marine Pollutants;

IMDG Code paragraph 3.4.8.1 The inner packaging limits for substances, materials or articles, which are identified as marine pollutants and which are permitted in limited quantities, shall not exceed 5 litres for liquids or 5 kg for solids.

Paragraph 3.4.8.2 The inner packaging limits for substances, materials, or articles, which are identified as severe marine pollutants and which are permitted in limited quantities, shall not exceed 500 ml for liquids or 500 g for solids.

More Information

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