

ABS REGULATORY NEWS

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UPDATE TO THE IMSBC CODE (AMENDMENT 06-21)

In April 2022, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) updated its International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code with Resolution MSC.500(105), providing amendments to the code which will enter into force on December 1, 2023. From January 1, 2023, ship operators may opt for voluntary compliance.

AMENDMENTS TO THE IMSBC CODE

The IMO Maritime Safety Committee adopted [Resolution MSC.500\(105\)](#) containing a new set of amendments (Amendment 06-21) to the IMSBC Code. Shipowners, operators, managers and ship masters should be mindful of these updates which will enter into force on 1 December 2023, but may be applied by Administrations on a voluntary basis beginning 1 January 2023.

KEY NOTES

- The Amendments (06-21) to the IMSBC Code will enter into force on 1 December 2023.
- From January 1, 2023, shipowners and operators can seek early voluntarily implementation of the amendments and have IMSBC certificates reissued for the addition or deletion of cargoes listed in the amended IMSBC Code.
- References:
Resolution MSC.500(105) - Amendments to the IMSBC Code

KEY UPDATES

New definitions relating to the phenomenon of "dynamic separation," including deliberations regarding the definition of "group A" cargoes

One of the main changes included in the amendments relates to the definition and information concerning Group A Cargoes, or cargoes that may liquefy or undergo dynamic separation. The new definitions are as follows:

- *Dynamic separation* means the phenomenon of forming a liquid slurry (water and fine solids) above the solid material, resulting in a free surface effect which may significantly affect the ship's stability.
- *Group A* consists of cargoes which pose a hazard due to moisture that may result in liquefaction or dynamic separation if shipped at a moisture content in excess of their transportable moisture limit.

New Appendix 1 cargo entries and deleted solid bulk cargoes in the IMSBC Appendix 1 "Individual schedule of solid bulk cargoes"

New cargo entries have been added to the IMSBC Appendix 1, "Individual schedule of solid bulk cargoes" and some solid bulk cargoes have been deleted from the list. Newly added solid bulk cargoes include ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer, clam shell and leach residue containing lead, among others. On the other hand, ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer (non-hazardous) and triple, granular superphosphate have been deleted from the list.

Table 1: Newly Added solid bulk cargo list

Bulk Cargo Shipping Name	Group	Hazard	Status
AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED FERTILIZER	C	-	New
AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED FERTILIZER MHB	B	MHB	New
CLAM SHELL	C	-	New
LEACH RESIDUE CONTAINING LEAD	A and B	MHB	New
SUPERPHOSPHATE (triple, granular)	B	MHB	New

Table 2: Deleted cargoes from solid bulk cargo list

Bulk Cargo Shipping Name	Group	Hazard	Status
AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED FERTILIZER (non-hazardous)	C	-	Deleted
SUPERPHOSPHATE (triple, granular)	C	-	Deleted

Shipowners and operators seeking early compliance with Resolution MSC.500(105) may contact ABS to review the addition or removal of cargoes from a vessel's approved cargoes list. Compliance with the updated IMSBC Code will be mandatory beginning December 1, 2023. Deleted cargoes may be eliminated during a periodical survey after December 1, 2023, or may be removed from existing certificates at the early request of shipowners or operators from January 1, 2023.

It is important to note that the "deleted" SUPERPHOSPHATE (triple, granular), as group C, will not be automatically accepted as the "new" SUPERPHOSPHATE (triple, granular), as group B and shipowners/operators should request ABS for review to add this new cargo in IMSBC certificates.

Moreover, there are additional changes to the requirements of twenty cargoes that are deemed to be of a minor in nature that may not affect the carriage of solid bulk cargoes already permitted on ships in service.

Impact to the vessel's certificates other than the IMSBC certificates

The changes to the IMSBC Code also have consequences to SOLAS Exemption Certificates based on MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.5, with new solid bulk cargoes categorized as group B in Table 1 of Annex to MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.5, for which gas fire-extinguishing system may be exempted.

Table 3: Newly Added Cargoes

Bulk Cargo Shipping Name	Group	Hazard	Status
LEACH RESIDUE CONTAINING LEAD	A and B	MHB	New
SUPERPHOSPHATE (triple, granular)	B	MHB	New

Shipowners and operators who intend to include newly added cargoes in their IMSBC certificates should re-issue or confirm their SOLAS Exemption Certificates for Fixed Fire-Extinguishing arrangement accordingly.

ACTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE

1. Shipowners and operators may request ABS to re-issue their IMSBC certificates for the addition and/or deletion of the cargoes listed from January 1, 2023.
2. ABS will confirm the removal of deleted cargoes from the shipboard IMSBC certificates and, where relevant, re-issuing them in consultation with shipowners/operators on or after December 1, 2023, but not later than the first periodical Safety Equipment Survey.

For full details of these amendments, please see [Resolution MSC.500\(105\)](#) on the *Amendments to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code*.

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