



**WORKING PAPER**

**DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)  
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE**

**The Hague, 3 to 7 November 2008**

**Agenda Item 6: Miscellaneous dangerous goods issues**

**FREELY DOWNLOADABLE *TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SAFE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS BY AIR* (DOC 9284) FROM THE INTERNET**

(Presented by CEFIC and FEA)

**SUMMARY**

CEFIC and FEA propose to place the complete text of the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Doc 9284) on the Internet, in portable document format (PDF).

Action by the DGP is in paragraph 2.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Nowadays most information, national as well as international regulations affecting the transport of dangerous goods, can be found in the Internet. And in many countries it is a legal requirement to make regulations available to the public free of charge. Here are a few examples:

- UN Model Regulations:  
[http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/unrec/rev15/15files\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/unrec/rev15/15files_e.html)
- ADR  
<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr2007/07ContentsE.html>
- ADN(R):  
<http://www.ccr-zkr.org/>
- ADN:  
<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/adnreg2007.html>
- IMDG-Code (German):  
<http://www.bmvbs.de/-,1827.933629/Gefahrgut-Recht-Vorschriften-S.htm>

- GHS:  
<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/adnreg2007.html>
- CFR 49:  
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/cfrassemble.cgi?title=200749>

1.2 Currently several committees of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), a United Nations-body as ICAO, are discussing the possibility to make the text of the IMDG Code available so that it can be freely downloaded from the Internet. The Maritime Safety Committee MSC agreed “to instruct DSC 13 (Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers) to consider the merits of placing the complete text of the IMDG Code on the Internet and allowing it to be freely downloadable in the context of improving safety and prevention of pollution.” (Document DSC 13/3/4, see the Appendix to this working paper).

1.3 CEFIC and FEA are of the opinion that this option should be discussed as well by the DGP concerning the Technical Instructions.

## 2. ACTION BY THE DGP-WG

2.1 The DGP-WG is invited to request the ICAO Secretariat to consider making all parts of the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Doc 9284) available on the Internet on a website which is freely accessible to the public in Portable Document Format (PDF).

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## APPENDIX

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION



IMO

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SUB-COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS  
GOODS, SOLID CARGOES AND  
CONTAINERS  
13th session  
Agenda item 3

DSC 13/3/4  
20 June 2008  
Original: ENGLISH

### AMENDMENTS TO THE IMDG CODE AND SUPPLEMENTS, INCLUDING HARMONIZATION OF THE IMDG CODE WITH THE UN RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

**Harmonization of the IMDG Code with the UN Recommendations on the transport of  
dangerous goods**

**Text of the IMDG Code freely downloadable from the Internet**

**Note by the Secretariat**

SUMMARY	
<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides the outcome of MSC 84, TC 58 and C 100 on making available the text of the IMDG Code so that it can be freely downloadable from the Internet
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	3.2
<i>High-level action:</i>	3.2.2
<i>Planned output:</i>	3.2.2.1
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 7
<i>Related documents:</i>	DSC 12/19; MSC 84/24; TC 58/13; C 100/9; C 100/10/Add.1 and C 100/WP.3

#### Background

1 The Sub-Committee may recall that at DSC 12, when considering issues surrounding the mandatory application of training requirements for shoreside personnel, some delegations were of the view that placing the complete text of the IMDG Code on the Internet, in Portable Document Format (PDF) only, would assist in better accessibility and promotion of the provisions of the Code, noting that a similar provision existed whereby the complete text of the UN Recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods was freely accessible and downloadable from the Internet. The Sub-Committee invited the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) to look into the possibility of making available the complete text of the IMDG Code freely downloadable from the Internet.

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#### **Outcome of MSC 84**

2 MSC 84 (7 to 16 May 2008) noted that the issue of placing the complete text of the IMDG Code on the Internet had been discussed within the Secretariat and that allowing the text to be freely accessible and downloadable from the Internet was likely to have an impact on the revenue generated from the sales of the IMDG Code. Furthermore, the Committee noted that such a reduction in the sales revenue was likely to affect the surplus of the Printing Fund, which contributed significantly to those activities of the Organization which have a technical co-operation dimension.

3 Following an extensive debate on the issue, the Secretary-General expressed the view that, in order to progress the matter, it would be appropriate for the Committee to consider matters relating to safety aspects only and to invite the Technical Co-operation Committee (TCC) to provide its views on the impact on its activities, if any, as a result of placing the complete text of the Code on the Internet for it to be freely downloadable. He advised that the final decision should then be taken by the Council and the Assembly on the basis of the advice of the TCC and MSC.

4 Subsequently, MSC 84 agreed to instruct DSC 13 to consider the merits of placing the complete text of the IMDG Code on the Internet and allowing it to be freely downloadable in the context of improving safety and prevention of pollution and to advise the MSC accordingly. Furthermore, MSC 84 invited the TCC to consider the implications of the aforementioned proposal on its activities and to advise the Council and the Assembly accordingly.

#### **Outcome of TC 58**

5 The Technical Co-operation Committee at its fifty-eight session (TC 58) (10 to 12 June 2008) received an analysis of the potential impact on the TC Fund of a proposal to make the IMDG Code available by free download, in the context of a debate on mandatory training for shoreside personnel in the provisions of the Code. That Committee noted that making the IMDG Code available free online, as proposed, would be likely to have a negative impact on the revenues of the Printing Fund and, therefore, on its surplus. Since the Printing Fund's contribution to the TC Fund was proportional to its surplus, there could be a commensurate negative effect on the TC Fund. TC 58 noted the objection by an overwhelming majority of delegations to this proposal and agreed to recommend to the Council that the current policy of making the IMDG Code available as a sales item should be maintained.

#### **Outcome of C 100**

6 The Council at its one hundredth session (C 100) (16 to 20 June 2008) decided to defer deciding whether the IMDG Code should, or not, continue to be published as a sales item and be made available online, free of charge, pending the outcome of consideration of the issue by MSC 85.

#### **Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided, particularly the instruction of MSC 84, to the Sub-Committee, in paragraph 4 above, and take appropriate action.