



Ref. T3/1.01

MSC/Circ.963
1 June 2000

TRANSPORT OF CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE

1 The Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC), at its fifth session, having received a considerable number of submissions by Governments and international organizations and prompted by recent incidents involving the transport of Calcium Hypochlorite by sea, agreed that there was a need for guidance on the transport provisions of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code, for these products.

2 The problems that led to these incidents may be related to operational matters or substance properties or impurities or a combination thereof or there may be causes unrelated to Calcium Hypochlorite. In view of these, as yet unexplained, incidents and ongoing research, the Sub-Committee agreed to take additional precautionary measures and to this end amend some of the packaging, stowage and segregation requirements and properties and observations in the IMDG Code for these products.

3 Considering the importance of providing Administrations, competent authorities and other parties concerned with clear advice regarding the application of the IMDG Code, the Sub-Committee agreed that, in view of the above, these requirements needed to be brought to the attention of Member Governments.

4 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-second session (17 to 26 May 2000), adopted the amended provisions, as set out at annex, as part of Amendment 30-00 to the IMDG Code, and approved the present circular.

5 The Committee endorsed the view of the Sub-Committee, based on the information available to the Organization at this time, that strict compliance with the provisions of the IMDG Code, as amended, provides for the safe transport, by sea, of Calcium Hypochlorite of Class 5.1. UN Nos. 1748, 2208 and 2880.

6 Member Governments are invited to bring this circular to the attention of shipping companies, shipowners, ship operators, seafarers, shippers, terminal operations and other parties concerned, and to urge them to strictly apply the relevant provisions of the IMDG Code, as amended, as early as possible.

ANNEX**AMENDMENTS TO PACKAGING, STOWAGE AND SEGREGATION
PROVISIONS AND PROPERTIES AND OBSERVATIONS FOR
CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE, UN Nos. 1748, 2208 AND 2880**

The existing IMDG Code (29-98) requirements for Calcium Hypochlorite have been amended as below and have also been incorporated in Amendment 30-00:

PACKAGING

Bags, IBCs and Bulk packagings are not allowed.

STOWAGE AND SEGREGATION**Stowage**

Category D

Cargo transport units should be shaded from direct sunlight and stowed away from sources of heat. Packages in cargo transport units should be stowed so as to allow for adequate air circulation throughout the cargo.

Segregation

"Separated from" powdered metals and their compounds, ammonium compounds, cyanides, hydrogen peroxides and liquid organic substances.

PROPERTIES AND OBSERVATIONS

White or yellowish solid (powder, granules or tablets) with chlorine-like odour. Soluble in water. May cause fire in contact with organic material or ammonium compounds.

Substances are liable to exothermic decomposition at elevated temperatures. This condition may lead to fire or explosion. Decomposition can be initiated by heat or by impurities (*e.g.* powdered metals (iron, manganese, cobalt, magnesium) and their compounds).

Liable to heat slowly.

Reacts with acids, evolving chlorine, an irritating, corrosive and toxic gas. In the presence of moisture, corrosive to most metals.

Dust irritates mucous membranes.