Regulating the carriage of dangerous goods

Many maritime countries have taken steps to regulate the carriage of dangerous goods by sea, based on the safety considerations set out in parts A and A-1 of chapter VII of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended. More recently, as marine pollution has become a serious concern, countries have taken further steps to regulate the carriage of marine pollutants, as described in Annex III of MARPOL.

The International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, which was first published in 1965, amplifies the requirements of both Conventions and has become the standard guide to all aspects of handling dangerous goods and marine pollutants in sea transport.

The IMDG Code as originally amended was recommended to governments as the basis for national regulations by which the requirements of SOLAS 1974 and MARPOL Annex III were effected, but the Code as amended by Amendments 35, 36 and 37 is now mandatory.

What’s in it
The Code lays down basic principles: detailed recommendations for individual substances, materials and articles, and a number of recommendations for good operational practice, including advice on terminology, packing, labelling, stowage, segregation and handling, and emergency response action.

Who uses it
Although the information in the Code is directed primarily at the mariner, its provisions may affect a range of industries and services: manufacturers, packers, shippers, feeder services such as road and rail, and port authorities will find reliable advice on terminology, packing, labelling, classification, stowage, segregation, and emergency response action.

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IMDG Code 2014 Edition
incorporating Amendment 37-14 IMO Sales No. IJ200E*

The IMDG Code has undergone many changes over the years, in both format and content, in order to keep up with the rapid expansion of the shipping industry. Amendment 37-14 includes revisions to various sections of the Code and to transport requirements for specific substances. It was adopted by IMO’s Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) at its ninety-third session in May 2014.

The Code, as amended by Amendment 37-14, is mandatory as from 1 January 2016 but may be applied by Administrations in whole or in part on a voluntary basis from 1 January 2015.

The two-volume Code is divided into seven parts:

Volume 1 (parts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Code) contains sections on:
- general provisions, definitions and training
- classification
- packing and tank provisions
- consignment procedures
- construction and testing of packagings, IBCs, large packagings, portable tanks, MEGCs and road tank vehicles
- transport operations

Volume 2 contains part 3 (Dangerous Goods List, special provisions and exceptions), appendices A and B (generic and N.O.S. Proper Shipping Names, and glossary of terms) and an index.

Also available is the IMDG Code Supplement, 2014 Edition, containing several related texts such as the EmS Guide and MFAG. IMO Sales No. II210E*

IMDG Code for Windows v12 (2014)
CD: IMO Sales No. DJ200E – product activation required
Download: IMO Sales No. ZJ200E – product activation required

Features unique to the IMDG Code for Windows include:
- Search by substance or UN Number
- Multiple windows (MDI) for viewing multiple pages or substances
- Extensive cross-referencing
- On-screen colour displays of hazard labels, signs and marks
- Search by names in French and Spanish substance indexes
- Easy generation and saving of a Dangerous Goods Note
- Easy-to-use menus, on-screen user manual, as well as help screens
- Printing facility and downloading
- Single-user or network versions
- Includes the IMDG Code Supplement, 2014 Edition

IMDG Code for the Intranet IMO Sales No. D201E
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This is the English language IMDG Code exactly as on the IMDG Code for Windows except for Dangerous Goods Note generation. It is available online on annual subscription.

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IMDG Code e-reader version IMO Sales No. KJ200E*
The e-reader version is an exact copy of the printed title. It is presented in EBK format and includes the following key features:
- Installation available without internet access
- Multiple advanced search facilities
- Add your own annotations, copy and paste, printing

* Also available in French and Spanish.