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.

What’s in it

The IMDG 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.

IMDG Code, 2018 Edition

(Incorporating Amendment 39-18)


The 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 39-18 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-ninth session in May 2018. Amendment 39-18 of the Code is mandatory as from 1 January 2020 but may be applied by Administrations in whole or in part on a voluntary basis from 1 January 2019.

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

Also available is the IMDG Code Supplement, 2018 Edition, containing several related texts such as the EmS Guide and MFAG.


* Also available in French and Spanish.

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, 2018 Edition, containing several related texts such as the EmS Guide and MFAG.


* Also available in French and Spanish.


Product activation required

Download: IMO Sales No. ZL200E
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, 2018 Edition

IMDG Code for the Intranet

IMO Product Code: D201E
This product is designed for large corporate intranets: local, regional and global.

IMDG Code on the Web

IMO Product Code: S200E
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.

For a free two-day trial, please contact your local distributor or visit https://vp.imo.org/Public/TrialSetup.aspx

IMDG Code e-reader version

IMO Product Code: KL200E*
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


IMO Product Code: IH223E
This updated full-colour A2 poster illustrates the labels, marks and signs required under SOLAS and detailed in the IMDG Code.