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**DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN THE SHIPMENT OF DANGEROUS CARGOES
AND, IN PARTICULAR, SPORTING AMMUNITION AND RELATED COMPONENTS
(IMDG CODE DIVISION 1.4S)**

- 1 The Facilitation Committee, at its thirty-third session (3 to 7 July 2006), considered the difficulties encountered in the worldwide shipment of dangerous cargoes and in particular sporting ammunition (cartridges with inert projectile) and related components UN 0012, classified as IMDG Code division 1.4S.
- 2 The Committee, in an effort to foster the alleviation of the difficulties encountered, adopted the Advice on the shipment of sporting ammunition and related components (IMDG Code division 1.4S), which is set out in the annex.
- 3 The Committee remains concerned about the potential adverse effects the denial of shipment of dangerous cargoes might have on international trade and expeditious handling and shipment of such cargoes.
- 4 Member Governments and international organizations are urged to bring to the attention of the Committee any instances, together with the associated reasons, where the shipment of dangerous cargoes, encounter difficulties or are refused aboard ship or in or through ports, so as to enable the Committee to consider the matter further and to determine the actions required.
- 5 Member Governments are urged to bring this Circular and the annexed Advice to the attention of their Public Authorities, of owners, operators and masters of ships entitled to fly their flag and of owners and operators of ports located within the area under their jurisdiction.

ANNEX

ADVICE ON THE SHIPMENT OF DANGEROUS CARGOES AND, IN PARTICULAR, SPORTING AMMUNITION AND RELATED COMPONENTS (IMDG CODE DIVISION 1.4S)

General

1 Shipping and handling of dangerous cargoes, including IMDG Code division 1.4S materials, when carried out in compliance with the relevant provisions of SOLAS chapter VII, the IMDG Code and the recommendations contained in Recommendations on the safe transport of dangerous cargoes and related activities in port areas (MSC/Circ.675, as amended), should be considered as meeting the necessary safety requirements and should be facilitated.

Specific advice

2 Materials of IMDG Code division 1.4S are recognized worldwide as being among the safest products of IMDG Code class 1, with an excellent safety record. These materials are so packed and designed that any hazardous effects arising from accidental functioning are confined within the packages unless the package has been degraded by fire, in which case all blast or projection effects are limited to the extent that they do not scientifically hinder fire-fighting or other emergency response efforts in the immediate vicinity of the package.

3 In the IMDG Code, part 3, dangerous goods list, all prescriptions for the shipment are established on the basic concept that class 1.4S products are extremely safe for transport. In fact these goods belong to stowage category 5 (IMDG Code, 7.1.7.2 to 7.1.7.5.5) for which is prescribed the same stowage system both for cargo or passenger ships. Products in division 1.4S may be transported in any amount on passenger ships (IMDG Code, 7.1.5.2). They can be stowed in the outermost row (IMDG Code, 7.1.7.4.1.2), without stowage level containment prescription (IMDG Code, 7.7.1.4) and are exempt from stowage provisions related to securement (IMDG Code, 7.1.7.4.4) and separation from living quarters and machinery spaces (IMDG Code, 7.1.7.4.6) for class 1 (IMDG Code, 7.1.7.3).

Recommended actions

4 Member Governments and those concerned should facilitate the efficient, cost effective and expeditious handling and shipment of dangerous cargoes including IMDG Code division 1.4S materials, aboard ships and in and through ports, provided that these cargoes are shipped in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 1.

5 Member Governments should work with relevant national authorities and industry associations to raise awareness of the provisions of SOLAS chapter VII, the IMDG Code and the recommendations contained in Recommendations on the safe transport of dangerous cargoes and related activities in port areas (MSC/Circ.675, as amended), in order to help alleviate the difficulties encountered in the shipment of dangerous cargoes.