

MEETING: International Maritime Organization (IMO), Sub-committee on dangerous goods, solid cargoes and containers, 13th meeting (DSC 13)

OUTLINE OF THE MEETING

IMO DSC Sub-Committee is engaged in the development and amendments to requirements for various cargoes represented by packaged dangerous goods. Technical regulations such as the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code have been considered by the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee has been in charge of the work for mandatory application of the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargo (IMSBC) Code, i.e., the new name of the Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes (BC Code) as a mandatory IMO instrument, following the agreement on the mandatory application of the Code by the Maritime Safety Committee at its 78th session held in May 2004. Thirteenth session of the Sub-Committee is the last session for preparation of the draft amendments to the Code prior to the mandatory application on the first of January 2011, on schedule.

DATE: Monday 22 to Friday 26 September, 2008

VENUE: IMO Headquarters, London

ATTENDANCE FROM NMRI

Dr. Susumu OTA (Left in photo)
Senior Research Engineer, Navigation
and System Engineering Department



MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Ota explained the Japanese proposal on the amendments to foreword and section 1 of the IMSBC Code in the document MSC 84/8/1, which was submitted to MSC 84 and considered by DSC 13. He endeavored to prepare the draft amendments to individual schedules for Coal and Brown Coal Briquettes, Direct Reduced Iron, Wood Pellets, etc., and new individual schedules for non-dangerous Sulphur and for Direct Reduced Iron Fines, based on the experience of drafting the all revised individual schedules as the co-ordinator of the correspondence group between DSC 11 and DSC 12.

He further undertook the coordinator of the internationally collaborative work for the clarification of the expressions in the individual schedules for Coal and Brown Coal Briquettes and drawing up new individual schedules for pulp wood and timber.

MAJOR OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

The amendments to foreword and section 1 of IMSBC Code, proposed by Japan, were unanimously agreed.

Taking into account a fatal accident due to oxygen depletion occurred in an enclosed space adjacent to a cargo space carrying wood pellets, Sweden proposed to add some requirements regarding gas monitoring into the individual schedules for WOOD PELLETS and WOOD CHIPS. The proposed draft amendments were considered by the Working Group on the IMSBC Code and agreed by the Sub-Committee. Furthermore, it was prepared that the draft amendments to the individual schedules and draft new ones for the following cargoes:

- COAL and BROWN COAL BRIQUETTES: Addition to special requirements for gravity fed self-unloader bulk carriers and clarification on application of the requirements for explosion proof type electric equipment, etc.;
- Direct Reduced Iron (DRI): Amendments to the individual schedules for "DRI (A) Briquettes, hot-moulded" and "DIRECT REDUCED IRON (B) lumps, pellets and cold-moulded briquettes" and a new individual schedule for "DRI (C) fines";
- Sulphur: A new individual schedule for non-dangerous good "SULPHUR (formed, solid)" and an amendment to individual schedule for "SULPHUR UN 1350 (lump and coarse-grained)";

These draft amendments and new schedules will be sent to MSC 85 for adoption.

THE NEXT SESSION OF DSC Sub-Committee

The fourteenth session of the Sub-Committee (DSC 14) is tentatively scheduled from 21 through 25 of September 2009 at IMO Headquarters, London.