



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI



F.No. 25/53012/4/2023-NT-DGS (26455)

Date: 22.12.2023

DGS Order: 23 of 2023

**Subject: Amendments to Chapter VI – Carriage of Cargo of the International Convention
Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), and its applicability– reg.**

Whereas, the Government of India has ratified the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), and the convention entered into force on 25th May, 1980 through accession. The Convention as modified by the protocol of 1988 entered into force on 22nd November, 2000 through accession. Article 1 of the Convention mandated the general obligation of the Government to undertake all measures which may be necessary to give effect to the Convention.

Whereas, the SOLAS Convention of 1974, with its amendments, has compulsory rules in Chapter VI for carrying solid bulk cargo. The International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code expands on these rules and replaces the Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes (BC) Code. The IMSBC Code aims to make the stowage and shipment of solid bulk cargoes safer by providing information on the risks of certain kinds of solid bulk cargoes and the steps to be taken while shipping such cargoes. The IMSBC Code became mandatory under the SOLAS Convention on 1st January, 2011, after its adoption by Resolution MSC.268 (85) on 4th December, 2008.

Furthermore, the International Code for the Safe Carriage of Grain in Bulk (International Grain Code) 1991 has particular rules for carrying cargo of grain in bulk. The International Grain Code was adopted by Resolution MSC. 23 (59), and its application has been mandatory under SOLAS Chapter VI, since 1st January, 1994.

Whereas, the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended, incorporates the Convention and is defined at Section 3 (37) as “Safety Convention” which means the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea signed in London on the 1st day of November, 1974 as amended from time to time. Further, the mandatory Codes as indicated in the Convention and its amendments from time to time are in effect applicable to Indian vessels and foreign vessels sailing within the Indian jurisdiction.

Whereas, the Merchant Shipping Act, incorporates Chapter VI–Carriage of Cargo of SOLAS under Sections 330, 331A, 332. The Merchant Shipping Act, Section 330 provides for powers to make rules as to timber cargo and Section 331-A provides for Grain-loading plan and Section 332 provides for carriage of grain. The Merchant Shipping Act, section 436 (1) and (2) provides enforcement provisions. The International Grain Code has been adopted in the Indian

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Legislation under Section 332 of the Merchant Shipping Act and Rule 17 of Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Cargo) Rules, 1995.

Whereas, the Government has issued Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Cargo) Rules, 1995 & Merchant Shipping (Condition for carriage of Livestocks) Rules, 2020, as a measure to give effect to the Convention. As a measure to give effect to the Convention and as referred under Rule 2(c) of the Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Cargo) Rules, 1995, "BC Code" means the code of safe practice for solid bulk cargoes adopted by the International Maritime Organisation as amended from time to time, which has been now replaced by International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code.

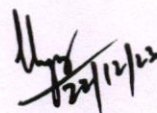
Furthermore, the Government has issued various executive orders, notices and circulars from time to time providing instructions on the Carriage of Cargo. These include but are not limited to, DGS Order 06 of 2021 dated 27.01.2021 on Merchant Shipping (Conditions for Carriage of Livestock) Rules, 2020; DGS Order 04 of 2019 dated 12.09.2019 on Carriage of Livestock by the vessels registered under The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 - reg.; MS Notice 15 of 2016 dated 29.11.2016 on verified gross mass of container; MS Notice 14 of 2016 dated 29.11.2016 on Amendments to the IMSBC Code and the revised scrutiny sheet for assessment and approval of laboratories engaged in the testing of cargo for carriage on board merchant ship, as per the IMSBC Code - reg.; MS Notice 09 of 2016 dated 30.09.2016 on Implementing verified gross mass of container guidelines; MS Notice 07 of 2016, 22.06.2016 on Supplementary/clarificatory additionalities to the guidelines issued vide this office MS Notice. 04 of 2016 dated 11.05.2016 concerning verified gross mass of containers - reg; MS Notice 04 of 2016 dated 11.05.2016 on Guidelines for implementing amendment to Regulation 2 of Chapter VI; MS Notice 17 of 2014 dated 03.09.2014 on Approval of Marine Laboratories engaged in testing cargo for carriage; MS Notice 21 of 2010 dated 08.11.2010 on Safe Carriage of cargoes and oil fuels by sea; DGS Circular 04 of 2021 dated 25.01.2021 on Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for certification of vessels for Carriage of Livestock, as per Merchant Shipping (Conditions for Carriage of Livestock) Rules, 2020.

Further, guidance on 'to the satisfaction of the Administration' is issued vide MS Notice 15 of 2023 on 09.11.2023.

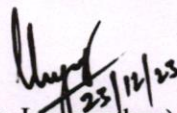
Whereas, the Recognised Organizations (RO) were notified vide notification dated 26th December, 2014, and as indicated, an agreement is entered into with each RO to carry out surveys and certification as per the Convention.

Noting that, IMO has issued various amendments to the Convention from time to time, which is annexed to this Order at "Annexure- 1". As defined in the Merchant Shipping Act, such amendments to the Convention are already in effect and applicable to Indian vessels and foreign vessels sailing within the Indian jurisdiction.

Additionally, the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) is authorized by the IMO to adopt amendments to the IMSBC Code. The IMSBC Code is amended on a two-year cycle and with effect from 1st January, 2024, there will be two amendments to the IMSBC Code running concurrently with each other: Amendment 06-21 (mandatory) and Amendment 07-23 (voluntary). The amendments from time to time to the Code shall be effective and applicable to Indian vessels and foreign vessels sailing within the Indian jurisdiction.



The stakeholders are therefore advised to be guided by this Order towards compliance with the provisions to give full effect to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the mandatory Codes.

Handwritten signature of Shyam Jagannathan in black ink, with the date 23/12/23 written next to it.

(Shyam Jagannathan)

Director General of Shipping

To,
All Stakeholders through DGS Website

Annexure - 1

Chapter VI of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as modified by the protocol of 1988 relating thereto

Amendments	Adopted		Effective Date	Amendments to Chapters	
	By	Date		VI	Appendix
1981 Amendments	Res.MSC.1 (45)	20.Nov.1981	01.Sep.1984	1, Part B/ Sec.V/ (A), (B)(a)(ii)	
1991 Amendments	Res.MSC.22 (59)	23.May.1991	01.Jan.1994	1~9 (Completely revised)	
1994 Amendments	Res.MSC.42 (64)	09.Dec.1994	01.Jul.1996	2.1, 5,6	
1995 Amendments	SOLAS/CON F.3/46	29.Nov.1995	01.Jul.1997	5.6	
1996 Amendments	Res.MSC.47 (66)	04.Jun.1996	01.Jul.1998	2.2, 7	
1998 Amendments	Res.MSC.69 (69)	20.May.1998	01.Jul.2002	5.6	
2002 Amendments to 74 SOLAS	Res.MSC.123 (75)	24.May.2002	01.Jan.2004	2,5, 6	Certificates (Form P, Form R)
2005 Amendments	Res.MSC.194 (80), Annex 2	20.May.2005	01.Jan.2009	7	Certificates (PS)
2007 Amendments	Res.MSC.239 (83)	12.Oct.2007	01.Jul.2009	5-1	Certificates (PS,PNUC,CNUC)
2008 Amendments	Res.MSC.269 (85), Annex 2	04.Dec.2008	01.Jan.2011	1-1,1-2,2,3,6,7	
2009 Amendments	Res.MSC.282 (86)	05.Jun.2009	01.Jan.2011	1, 5-1	Certificates (Form P, Form E, Form PNUC, Form CNUC)
2012 Amendments	Res.MSC.325 (90)	24.May .2012	01.Jan.2014	5-2 (new)	
2014 Amendments	Res.MSC.380(94)	21.Sep.2014	01.Jul.2016	2	Certificate (SE)