

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Safe Carriage of Solid Bulk Cargoes

On January 1, 2011, the amendments to Chapter VI and Chapter VII of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, (SOLAS) came into force making the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code mandatory. These amendments require that all vessels subject to SOLAS, and carrying bulk solid cargoes other than grain, comply with the IMSBC Code.

In addition, the Coast Guard amended regulations in 46 CFR Parts 97 and 148 governing the carriage of solid hazardous materials in bulk allowing the IMSBC Code to be used as an equivalent form of compliance for all domestic and foreign vessels operating in U.S. navigable waters. The amended Coast Guard regulations also expand the list of solid hazardous materials authorized for bulk transportation by vessel and include special handling procedures based on the IMSBC Code and existing special permits.

During routine Port State Control exams over the last several months, Sector New Orleans Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) discovered several vessels that were not in compliance with the provisions of the IMSBC Code for the safe carriage of Ferrosilicon (UN 1408). As a result, these vessels were subject to international control actions, severe commercial delays and possible civil penalties. Deficiencies identified included, but were not limited to the failure of the crew to:

1. Provide written certification that, after manufacture, the cargo was stored under cover, but exposed to dry weather for not less than 3 days prior to shipment.
2. Maintain continuous mechanical ventilation from commencement of loading until the cargo space is free of ferrosilicon.
3. Provide suitable detectors for hydrogen, phosphine and arsine on board the vessel while ferrosilicon is carried and measure gas concentrations during the voyage, at least once during every eight hours, at each outlet ventilator and in any other accessible space adjacent to the cargo space carrying ferrosilicon with the results recorded and kept on board.

Masters and/or operators of vessels are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that they are in compliance with the provisions of the IMSBC Code governing the carriage of ferrosilicon and/or solid hazardous materials in bulk while in the navigable waters of the United States.

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Should you have any questions, please contact the US Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Port State Control Branch at (504) 365-2361 or via email at pscnola@uscg.mil.

For further information, contact:

Coast Guard Port State Control: (504) 365-2361 or 2362

Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Command Center: (504) 365-2544 or 2209



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