



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Bulk Solid Hazardous Materials: Harmonization with the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code Proposed Rule Published

The Coast Guard announced today publication in the Federal Register of a notice of proposed rulemaking to amend its regulations for the carriage of bulk solid hazardous materials to harmonize them with those of the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code.

The IMSBC Code will be mandatory for all vessels subject to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended, that carry bulk solid cargoes other than grain on January 1, 2011. The proposed rule would allow the use of the IMSBC Code as an alternate form of compliance with Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 148 subject to conditions and limitations. The rule also proposes to expand the list of solid hazardous materials authorized for bulk vessel transportation in U.S. waters and to include special handling procedures based on the IMSBC Code and existing special permits. These changes would reduce the need for the current special permits for the carriage of certain solid hazardous materials in bulk.

The proposed rule and related materials may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> docket number: USCG-2009-0091.

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