

TOPIC:	IMDG CODE	REF. NO.	19/08
VESSEL CATEGORY:	ALL VESSELS	AREA:	ALL REGIONS

A new edition of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code, the standard guide to all aspects of handling dangerous goods and marine pollutants in sea transport, has been published by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The new edition includes the changes to Amendment 34-08, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) in May 2008.

The new amendments to the Code are mandatory as from 1st January 2010 but may be voluntarily applied by Administrations from 1st January 2009.

The many detailed changes introduced by Amendment 34-08 include:

- In the Dangerous Goods List, there are 12 new UN numbers going up to 3481, with explosives going up to 0508;
- In addition there are 5 UN numbers which were previously not listed in the IMDG Code because they were not regulated under it;
- Appropriate training for shore side staff involved with dangerous goods is now mandatory instead of just recommended, and may be audited by the competent authority. Persons not yet trained may only operate under the direct supervision of a trained person; and
- Additional changes concerning marine pollutants, IMO tank instructions, excepted quantities, limited quantities and radioactive materials of class 7.

Source of information: International Maritime Organization Briefing No.57 dated 11th December 2008; www.imo.org

16.12.08