

## **2007 REVISION OF MARPOL 73/78 ANNEX II - THE CONTROL OF POLLUTION BY NOXIOUS LIQUID SUBSTANCES IN BULK**

### **CARRIAGE OF NOXIOUS LIQUID SUBSTANCES BY SUPPLY/SUPPORT VESSELS**

When IMO developed the MARPOL ANNEX II Convention, its main aim was to deal with pollution created as a result of ship's operational practices. MARPOL 73/78 Annex II is applicable to all vessels, irrespective of date of build or size, carrying cargoes listed in IBC Code Chapters 17 or 18 which were given the Pollution Category of A, B, C or D. It covers the pollution and operational waste disposal aspects of Noxious Liquid Substances, which are divided into Pollution Category A, B, C, D and Appendix III Substances.

As a result of improvements in ship technology, a greater understanding of factors important to the marine environment, the 1992 UNCED Conference (Rio de Janeiro) and the revision of the GESAMP Evaluation of Hazards System Annex II of MARPOL 73/78 was completely revised.

This has resulted in the revision of the Pollution Categories, and instead of a five category system the new Annex II of MARPOL now has a four category system X, Y Z and Other Substances (OS).

Based on the revised Annex II of MARPOL 73/78, the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) has been amended to reflect the changes to MARPOL Annex II. The amendments incorporate revisions to the categorization of certain products relating to their properties as potential marine pollutants as well as the revision to ship type and carriage requirements following their evaluation by the Evaluation of Hazardous Substances Working Group (ESPH). In addition the Guidelines for the Transport and Handling of Limited amounts of Hazardous and Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk on Offshore Support Vessels A.673(16) has also been amended. One major change is that Category X, Y and Z products must be retained onboard for discharge ashore when being carried on offshore supply/support vessels.

The amendments to Annex II of MARPOL 73/78, the IBC Code and A.673(16) will come into force on the 1 January 2007. Marine Information Note 225 provides information on the implementation dates.

To ensure that vessels have the correct certification to carry products listed in Chapter 17 & 18 of the IBC Code, MEPC.2/Circ and A.673(16) on the 1 January 2007, and to reduce the problems of moving NLS products, Shipowners/Managers, Oil Companies, Logistic Companies and Suppliers need to determine what products are currently being carried to and from offshore installation based on Chapter 17 & 18 of the IBC Code and the MEPC.2/Circ. Shipowners will need to ensure that the NLS Certification and the Procedure and Arrangements Manual have been amended to take account of the greater number of cargoes that could now be shipped.