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Ref. T3/1.01

DSC/Circ.14
15 October 2003

COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CODE OF SAFE PRACTICE FOR SOLID BULK CARGOES (BC CODE)

1   The Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC), at its eighth session (22 to 26 September 2003), considered a submission relating to the outcome of an incident investigation report (DSC 8/4/2) on the transport of ammonium nitrate based fertilizer.

2   The Sub-Committee's attention was drawn, in particular, to reported incidents caused by the lack of adherence to the provisions of the BC Code by those in charge of ships and transport of solid bulk cargoes.

3   The Sub-Committee, in view of the above, wishes to:

.1   draw the attention, once again, of shipowners, ship operators, companies and charterers involved in transport of solid bulk cargoes to:

.1   the need to provide the master with the relevant information on the cargo in accordance with chapters VI and VII of the SOLAS Convention and the provisions of the BC Code; and

.2   the need, when transporting any solid bulk cargo, to consult the BC Code;

.2   recommend to shippers and shipmasters:

.1   to ensure, before the loading of any solid bulk cargo, the suitability of the hold and its equipment for the product to be transported; and

.2   to only commence loading if all of the relevant safety criteria contained in the BC Code are met;

.3   recommend to shipowners, ship operators, and companies involved in the transport of solid bulk cargoes to train their crews in the provisions of the BC Code, including the safety measures contained therein, to integrate them into their ISM procedures and to carry any necessary safety equipment required by the Code.

4   Member Governments are invited to bring the above information to the attention of shipowners, ship operators, companies, shipmasters, shippers and all other parties concerned requesting that appropriate action be taken in accordance with the provisions of the relevant IMO instruments when transporting solid bulk cargoes.

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