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Ref. T3/1.01

DSC.1/Circ.60  
25 June 2008

**EXEMPTIONS GRANTED FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME DANGEROUS GOODS (IMDG) CODE**

**Communication received from the Government of Mexico**

- 1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-seventh session (28 May to 6 June 2003), agreed that the unified interpretation set forth in the annex to MSC/Circ.1075 contained appropriate guidance for the competent authorities acting in accordance with chapter 7.9 of the IMDG Code when granting exemptions not specifically covered under the approvals, permits, certificates and other authorizations already provided for by the provisions of chapter 7.9.
- 2 A communication has been received from the Government of Mexico concerning exemptions authorized under the provisions of part A, paragraph 1 of MSC/Circ.1075.
- 3 In accordance with the provisions of part A, paragraph 3.1 of MSC/Circ.1075, the above-mentioned communication is circulated to SOLAS Contracting Governments for their information and appropriate action, if any.

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**Translation**

Letter and attachments from the Mexican Ministry of Communications and Transport, Merchant Marine Directorate, addressed to the Maritime Safety Division, dated 3 June 2008

Ref. No. 7.2.302.405 - 2748

Dear Sir,

With regard to my letter No.7.2.302.405 – 2214 of 2 May, I am sending back the letters, as amended by you, granting exemption in respect of Tampico Fibre, or ixtle de lechuguilla, to the companies Ixtlera de Santa Catarina, S.A. de C.V., and Grupo Interoceánico Cala S.A. de C.V., in accordance with the decisions taken by the Maritime Safety Committee at its eighty-fourth session, held from 7 to 16 May 2008, through Amendment 34-08.

I should like to extend my gratitude to you on the successful decision taken at the above-mentioned session to exclude this substance from the IMDG Code, to the benefit of our Mexican companies.

With best regards,

(Signed) José Tomás Lozano y Pardinás  
Director-General

Mr. Irfan Rahim  
Head, Cargoes Section  
Maritime Safety Division  
IMO

**Ministry of Communications and Transport  
Coordinating Office for Ports and the Merchant Marine  
Merchant Marine Directorate**

**Ref. SP299**

Merchant Marine Directorate of Mexico

Exemption from the provisions of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code, Amendment 33-06) concerning the transport of Tampico Fibre, UN Classification 3360 (Fibres, Vegetable, Dry) having a density not less than 360 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

Exemption No: S151805/07

Expiry date: 31 December 2008

This exemption authorizes Ixtlera de Santa Catarina, S.A. de C.V. to transport by sea as NON-dangerous goods the product known as **Fibra Tampico, Ixtle de Lechuguilla or Tampico Fibre, class 4.1, UN 3360**, under the following conditions:

- a) The transported shipments shall be in quantities of a density not less than 360 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- b) The packaging shall comply with the provisions of the IMDG Code.
- c) Other safety provisions shall be observed.
- d) A copy of this exemption shall accompany each consignment.
- e) Every crate shall carry the exemption number in a visible spot.
- f) The Merchant Marine Directorate shall be notified monthly of the quantity of product transported (ship name, shipping company, flag, port of embarkation, port of destination)

This Administration reserves the right to withdraw its permission when it deems appropriate. This exemption is valid until 31 December 2008.

**Factors taken into consideration in granting this exemption**

The Mexican Maritime Authority requested the twelfth session of the DSC Sub-Committee of the International Maritime Organization to exclude Tampico Fibre from classification under the IMDG Code, on the evidence of testimony from Mexican industry, gathered over many years, showing that this fibre had never caused any accident or damage. The results of laboratory tests carried out by Chilworth Technology, Southampton, UK, were also adduced; they showed that this fibre does not fall within the criteria of class 4.1 as flammable or as self-reactive solid. An additional factor was that Tampico Fibre is not considered to be dangerous goods when transported on land and incorporated into a final product.

The DSC Sub-Committee, at its twelfth session (17-21 September 2007), approved exemption of Tampico fibre from the IMDG Code, provided its density when transported is not less than 360 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

Amendment 34-08 was adopted on 16 May 2008 during the eighty-fourth session of the Maritime Safety Committee held from 7 to 16 May 2008 at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization. Its provisions may be applied on a voluntary basis from 1 January 2009, in anticipation of its official entry into force on 1 January 2010.

For the Merchant Marine Directorate

(Signed) José Tomás Lozano y Pardini  
Director-General

Tampico Fibre  
Ixtlera de Santa Catarina. S.A. de C.V.  
Avenida Manuel Ordoñez 405 Poniente  
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Mexico

**Ministry of Communications and Transport  
Coordinating Office for Ports and the Merchant Marine  
Merchant Marine Directorate**

**Ref. SP299**

Merchant Marine Directorate of Mexico

Exemption from the provisions of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code, Amendment 33-06) concerning the transport of Tampico Fibre, UN Classification 3360 (Fibres, Vegetable, Dry) having a density not less than 360 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

Exemption No: S151805/07

Expiry date: 31 December 2008

This exemption authorizes Grupo Interoceánico Cala, S.A. de C.V. to transport by sea as NON-dangerous goods the product known as **Fibra Tampico, Ixtle de Lechuguila or Tampico Fibre, class 4.1, UN 3360**, under the following conditions:

- (a) The transported shipments shall be in quantities of a density not less than 360 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- (b) The packaging shall comply with the provisions of the IMDG Code.
- (c) Other safety provisions shall be observed.
- (d) A copy of this exemption shall accompany each consignment.
- (e) Every crate shall carry the exemption number in a visible spot.
- (f) The Merchant Marine Directorate shall be notified monthly of the quantity of product transported (ship name, shipping company, flag, port of embarkation, port of destination).

This Administration reserves the right to withdraw its permission when it deems appropriate. This exemption is valid until 31 December 2008.

**Factors taken into consideration in granting this exemption**

The Mexican Maritime Authority requested the twelfth session of the DSC Sub-Committee of the International Maritime Organization to exclude Tampico Fibre from classification under the IMDG Code, on the evidence of testimony from Mexican industry, gathered over many years, showing that this fibre had never caused any accident or damage. The results of laboratory tests carried out by Chilworth Technology, Southampton, UK, were also adduced; they showed that this fibre does not fall within the criteria of class 4.1 as flammable or as self-reactive solid. An additional factor was that Tampico Fibre is not considered to be dangerous goods when transported on land and incorporated into a final product.

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For the Merchant Marine Directorate

(Signed) José Tomás Lozano y Pardinas  
Director-General

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