



Ref. T3/1.01

DSC/Circ.23  
23 January 2004

## INCIDENT REPORTS INVOLVING LIGHTERS OR LIGHTER REFILLS

1 The Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC), at its eighth session (22 to 26 September 2003), considered a report submitted by Germany (DSC 8/INF.3), whereby specific checks of imported containers loaded with UN1057, LIGHTERS or LIGHTER REFILLS carried out at the ports in Germany in the form of gas measurements had shown that in an increasing number of containers there were explosive gas concentrations caused by leaking lighters or lighter refills and, following discussion of dangers involved in handling such cargoes, decided that this information should be disseminated to Member Governments so that Administrations and other parties concerned are alerted about these dangers.

2 In pursuance of this decision, the attention of Member Governments is drawn to the following measures required in German ports when checks are performed on the containers containing Lighters or Lighter refills or in the case of damage to such containers, to ensure safety of personnel and to avoid other risks:

- .1 no smoking in the vicinity of such containers;
- .2 all sources of ignition should be avoided (i.e. engine should be stopped, any devices that are not explosion-proof such as, radio sets, flashlights or mobile phones should not be used);
- .3 the danger area should be left and sealed off; and
- .4 the Police and the fire service should be called.

3 In addition, when handling containers containing disposable lighters the following recommended safety measures should be taken:

- .1 the container should be vented for at least 30 minutes in the open air prior to unloading (the doors on the windward side should be opened) and all sources of ignition within a radius of 2 metres should be avoided. There should be no sinks or other inlets on the ground within a radius of 5 metres;
- .2 the load should be checked for damage or other irregularities (e.g. unusual smell). If there is suspicion that a consignment contains defective lighters or lighter refills or they are releasing excessive gas, unloading and handling may begin only after an expert (e.g. a chemist) has decided on how to proceed;

- .3 sufficient venting of the store-room (natural or mechanical venting) should be ensured;
- .4 particular fire protection measures should be laid down and co-ordinated with the fire service, if necessary. In rooms designated for smoking, open fire or open light, waste disposal (e.g. packaging waste, cleaning rags) should be prohibited;
- .5 staff instructions should be displayed at appropriate places; and
- .6 safety information boards should be displayed at all entrances to the storage area.

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.

---