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BLG.1/Circ.28  
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## THE INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES FOR PRODUCT EVALUATION WORK UNDERTAKEN BY GESAMP/EHS

### Background

1 In accordance with the Guidelines for the provisional assessment of liquid substances transported in bulk which were approved by the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its fifty-fourth session (20 to 24 March 2006) and which are detailed in MEPC.1/Circ.512, there are provisions under section 8 of the Guidelines which require that, when a provisional assessment has been made of a pure or technically pure product or mixture containing more than 1% by weight of unassessed components, the manufacturers should submit relevant data to GESAMP/EHS in order to develop a GESAMP Hazard profile (GHP) for the substance(s) concerned.

2 In a similar manner, in the tank cleaning additives guidance note issued under MEPC.1/Circ.590 which was developed as a consequence of the revision of MARPOL Annex II and was approved by the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its fifty-sixth session (9 to 13 July 2007) there is a requirement that, if any components of a cleaning additive do not have the required GHP, the manufacturer should submit these components to GESAMP/EHS on an “owner pays principle”.

3 In considering the long-term funding of the GESAMP/EHS Working Group, it was agreed at MEPC 56 that costs should be split between the organization and industry (the latter being the beneficiary having the cargo interest) and that accordingly, a fixed fee should be paid each time an evaluation is carried out on a product. This fee should apply equally to products to be carried in bulk or to those used as a component in a mixture and to the evaluation of components in cleaning additives so as to ensure identical treatment within the evaluation system.

4 In deciding to set a fixed fee, it was noted that whilst the GESAMP/EHS Working Group members had in the past offered their specialized services on a voluntary basis, for the future a payment to Working Group members should be made in order to ensure that the high level of professional expertise available within the Group can be sustained.

5 As a further principle in the process, it was agreed that the method of payment for the fee should be direct from the manufacturer without the involvement of governments, following the same path as that used for the submission of data to GESAMP/EHS.

**Evaluation by GESAMP/EHS**

6 In accordance with the decisions outlined above, for all future product evaluation work carried out by GESAMP/EHS, a non-refundable fee of US\$6,500 should now be paid in advance of the evaluation work being undertaken by the Working Group.

7 Product submissions, in the first instance, should follow the guidance as given in GESAMP Reports and Studies No.64 with respect to the technical information to be supplied.

8 Submissions should be made to the GESAMP/EHS Technical Secretariat who will process all applications and then arrange for an invoice to be subsequently despatched to the initiating party.

9 Once the payment has been settled, GESAMP/EHS will address the product evaluation at the next scheduled meeting of the Working Group.

**Date of next GESAMP/EHS meeting**

10 The next meeting of the GESAMP/EHS Working Group is tentatively scheduled for 20 to 24 April 2009.

11 Member Governments are invited to note the new arrangements as described above and to bring this information to the attention of all concerned.

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