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Ref. T5/2.01

BLG.1/Circ.25
6 March 2008

USE OF SPECIFIC PRODUCT NAMES IN PREFERENCE TO GENERIC DESCRIPTIONS WHEN OFFERING BULK LIQUID CARGOES FOR SHIPMENT

1   The Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG), at its twelfth session (4 to 8 February 2008), concurred with the view of its Working Group on the Evaluation of Safety and Pollution Hazards of Chemicals (ESPH) that the use of specific product names should be adopted in preference to the use of generic entries when both options are available to describe bulk liquid cargoes.

2   In order to ensure that vessel operators and crews are able to ascertain that bulk liquids offered for shipment have been evaluated for transport in bulk and apply the appropriate carriage and operational requirements as laid out in SOLAS chapter VII, MARPOL Annex II and chapters 17 and 18 of the IBC Code, paragraph 16.2.2 of the IBC Code reads:

> "Any cargo offered for bulk shipment shall be indicated in the shipping documents by the product name under which it is listed in chapter 17 or 18 of the IBC Code or the latest edition of the MEPC.2/Circular under which it has been provisionally assessed ..."

3   In some cases, it is recognized that there can be an overlap for certain products when both specific and more generic substance descriptions are available in the IBC Code or the latest MEPC.2/Circular. In these situations, to avoid any ambiguity the specific entry for a product should always be used when available in preference to any generic entries. Utilization of the most specific and correct technical product name for a cargo will ensure that the most relevant carriage requirements for the product are always applied.

4   Member States are urged to draw the attention of all stakeholders to the importance of fulfilling their obligation to refer to cargoes by the most specific product name as it appears in chapter 17 or 18 of the IBC Code or the latest edition of the MEPC.2/Circular.

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