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MSC/Circ.987
20 December 2000

TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME DANGEROUS GOODS CODE (IMDG CODE)

Amendment No. 30-2000 (Amendmt. 30-00)

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-second session (17 to 26 May 2000), adopted Amendment No. 30-00 to the IMDG Code, as it had been agreed by the Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC) at its fifth session (7 to 11 February 2000) and finalized by the Sub-Committee's Editorial and Technical Group (E & T Group) (see document DSC 5/13/Add.1.)

2 When adopting Amendment No. 30-00 to the IMDG Code, the Committee agreed that the said amendment should enter into force on 1 January 2001, with a twelve-month transitional period until 31 December 2001. This was done on the understanding that it was the prerogative of Governments to implement amendments to the Code in whole or in part at any earlier date following circulation of the adopted amendments by the Organization and that the Organization would be notified of any such early implementation.

3 The afore-mentioned Amendment 30-00 has been prepared in the revised, reformatted and harmonized form of the IMDG Code and follows, as has always been the practice, the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods which affect all modes of transport. Future amendments to the IMDG Code will therefore be based, *mutatis muntandis*, on the model established by Amendment 30-00.

4 Following information received recently, a number of inaccuracies have been identified with respect to Amendment 30-00, which may be classified as:

- editorial;
- technical (relating to IMDG Code volumes 1 and 2);
- the new Medical First Aid Guide (MFAG); and
- consequential changes to the Supplement.

5 As far as the editorial inaccuracies are concerned, these have been identified in Volumes 1 and 2 of the Code and the Secretariat has issued the necessary errata and corrigenda for the widest possible dissemination.

6 As far as inaccuracies of substance are concerned, these should be, based on proposals by Member Governments and/or international organizations, verified by the E & T Group first before the DSC Sub-Committee and eventually the MSC act on them and they are promulgated for the attention of all concerned worldwide. Since the next session of the DSC Sub-Committee is scheduled to take place in July 2001 and of the E & T Group in September 2001, the Chairman of the MSC, following consultations with the Chairmen of the DSC Sub-Committee and the E & T Group, has decided that information on the alleged inaccuracies should be brought to the attention of all parties concerned as soon as possible.

7 This circular aims at serving this purpose and, until further advice, Member Governments are invited to note the above and advise industry and users of the Code in its reformatted form, to use it with due diligence, contacting, if necessary, the designated competent authorities and IMO for further guidance. Until the matter is clarified, the earlier version of the IMDG Code, i.e. Amendment 29-98, may be used for guidance in interpreting Amendment 30-00.

8 Member Governments and international organizations concerned are invited to bring to the attention of DSC 6 (16 to 20 July 2001) any provisions of the new Code which, in their judgement, require clarification together with any proposals they may have on amendments that should be made.
