



Antigua and Barbuda
Maritime Administration

SOLAS Circular
No. 2020 – 006
Rev 1
26 April 2021

SUBJECT: Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) – Asbestos Found Onboard

REFERENCE:

- a) [IMO Resolution MEPC.269\(68\) 2015](#) *Guidelines For the Development of Inventory of Hazardous Materials*
- b) [EC Directive No 1257/2013 \(EU SRR\)](#) *Regulation (EU) No 1257/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on ship recycling and amending Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 and Directive 2009/16/EC (Text with EEA relevance)*
- c) *Hong Kong Convention (HKC)*

TO: Ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships, and recognized organizations.

1. PURPOSE

This Circular provides information on the interpretation, expectations, and requirements of the Administration in respect of Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) – Asbestos Found Onboard.

2. APPLICATION

This Circular applies to all Antigua and Barbuda flagged Ships.

3. BACKGROUND

The guidelines for the development of the inventory of hazardous materials are covered in IMO Resolution MEPC.269(68). EC Directive No 1257/2013 (EU SRR) and the Hong Kong Convention (HKC) provide additional guidance.

Existing ships flying the flag of an EU member state and Antigua and Barbuda ships visiting EU ports and anchorages, from 31 December 2020, should have an approved IHM inspection report including the Inventory of Hazardous Materials Part I and a Statement of Compliance onboard.

4. OBLIGATIONS AND GUIDANCE/RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The IHM preparation shall be carried out by qualified HazMat experts from approved companies and the resultant IHM inspection report requires RO approval.
2. IHM certificate and Statement of Compliance (SoC) will be issued by RO with maximum five years validity in harmonization with the ship's main class renewal date.
3. SOLAS Regulations (Chapter II-1, Part A-1, Structure of ships, Regulation 3-5) bans the use of asbestos on vessels from 1 January 2011. For all ships, new installation of materials which contain asbestos shall be prohibited. The prohibition applies to

materials used for the structure, machinery, electrical installations, and any equipment covered by the SOLAS Convention.

4. During inspections of ships in service, asbestos has regularly been found in such places as fire blankets, joints and insulation materials, some types of sealants, friction material of brakes, wall and ceiling coverings, cords, gaskets, and electric fuses. Exposure to asbestos fibers in the air can cause a range of serious diseases.
5. Under IMO MSC.1/Circ.1374, Article 13, when asbestos is detected on board, in contravention of SOLAS regulation II-1/3-5, action should be taken to have it removed. The removal, assigned to professional asbestos removal companies, should take place within a time frame of three years, from the date when the contravention is found.
6. In such cases, a suitable Exemption Certificate should be issued by one of our ROs, as listed on our website <https://www.abregistry.ag/technical-services/recognised-organisation/> and they can advise further on compliance measures.
7. Kindly refer to [Miscellaneous Circular 2019-002](#) Recycling_of Ships on our website.

Issued by

Antigua and Barbuda
Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping
(ADOMS) St. John's