

Subject :

***Definition of Bulk Carrier in Chapter IX
of the SOLAS IX for ISM Code Certifications
(Part III)***

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

No. : 260

Date : 1 June 1998

To Ship Owners and Ship Management Companies concerned

Dear Sir(s)

We notified you of the Definition of Bulk Carrier in Chapter IX of the SOLAS for ISM Code Certifications by Technical Information No.231 dated 15 October, 1997 and No.241 dated 21 January, 1998.

At the IMO Maritime Safety Committee on its sixty-ninth session (MSC69), Canada, Liberia and the United States have withdrawn the reservation which they had made during the SOLAS Conference held in November, 1997. Therefore, the following Conference Resolution 6, "Interpretation of the definition of "Bulk Carrier", as given in Chapter IX of the SOLAS 1974, as amended in 1994" has been effective for the type of ship of Bulk Carrier on ISM Code implementation for flag State and port State.

- ***ships constructed with single deck, top-side tanks and hopper side tanks in cargo spaces and intended primarily to carry dry cargo in bulk; or***
- ***ore carriers****; or
- ***combination carriers*****;

* : ***"Ore carrier" means a sea going single deck ship having two longitudinal bulkheads and a double bottom throughout the cargo region and intended for the carriage of ore cargoes in the center holds only.***

** : ***"Combination carrier" has the same meaning as in SOLAS regulation II - 2/3.27***

("Combination carriers" is a tanker designed to carry oil or alternatively solid cargoes in bulk)

If you need more information about these matters, please do not hesitate to contact us. (ClassNK Ship Management Assessing Division, Head Office, Tokyo, Tel: 81-3-5226-2034, Fax: 81-3-5226-2030)

Attached

1. Conference Resolution 6, SOLAS/CONF.4/25 ANNEX

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RESOLUTION 6

INTERPRETATION OF THE DEFINITION OF "BULK CARRIER", AS GIVEN IN CHAPTER IX OF SOLAS 1974, AS AMENDED IN 1994

THE CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended, concerning the safety of bulk carriers,

NOTING that SOLAS chapter IX will enter into force on 1 July 1998,

NOTING ALSO that bulk carriers will have to comply with the requirements of SOLAS chapter IX by 1 July 1998,

NOTING FURTHER that the expected entry into force of the new SOLAS chapter XII on 1 July 1999 will make new requirements mandatory for bulk carriers,

RECOGNIZING that a number of SOLAS Contracting Governments have identified certain ambiguities in the definition of the term "bulk carrier", as given in SOLAS regulation IX/1.6, causing diverging interpretations of this term,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the need to establish, for the purpose of the application of the new SOLAS chapter XII, guidance to Contracting Governments and to the industry as to which ships are subject to the new requirements,

BEING AWARE of the urgent need to establish, for the purpose of the application of SOLAS chapter IX on 1 July 1998, a clear guidance to Contracting Governments and to the industry as to which specific ships are subject to the requirements of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code,

DESIRING to ensure that all Contracting Governments should implement the ISM Code and the new SOLAS chapter XII in their capacity as flag State or as port State exercising control under the provisions of the Convention, in a consistent, systematic and harmonized manner, with a view of facilitating international seaborne trade,

CONSCIOUS of the fact that SOLAS chapter IX should be applied taking into account Conference resolution 9, as soon as possible,

1. URGES SOLAS Contracting Governments to interpret the definition of the term "bulk carrier", given in regulation IX/1.6, for the purpose of the application of SOLAS regulation IX/2.1.2 and chapter XII to mean:

ships constructed with single deck, top-side tanks and hopper side tanks in cargo spaces and intended primarily to carry dry cargo in bulk; or

- ore carriers^{*}; or
- combination carriers^{**};

2. INVITES the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization to consider, as soon as possible:

- (a) actions necessary to remove the ambiguity which exists in the definition of the term "bulk carrier" as given in SOLAS regulation IX/1.6; and
- (b) any other appropriate action which will facilitate the easy identification of the type of ship by SOLAS Contracting Governments when exercising their rights of control under the provisions of that Convention

"Ore carrier" means a sea-going single deck ship having two longitudinal bulkheads and a double bottom throughout the cargo region and intended for the carriage of ore cargoes in the centre holds only.

"Combination carrier" has the same meaning as in SOLAS regulation II-2/3.27.