

Subject :

Methods of measurement of the density
of bulk cargoes with respect to application of
SOLAS chapter XII

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

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To shipowners and other concerned parties,

As described in our Technical Information No. 245 (dated 5 February 1999), application of new SOLAS Chapter XII regarding safety of bulk carriers, which entered into force on 1 July 1999, depends upon the density of solid bulk cargoes carried by bulk carriers. Inter alia, the regulation XII/10.2 requires that the density of cargo must be verified by an accredited testing organization in the case meeting all the condition given as follows:

- (1) The ship was built before 1 July 1999;
- (2) Single side skin bulk carriers of which Lf (length defined by the Load Line convention) is 150m or more;
- (3) bulk carriers not complying with regulation XII/6 (this regulation applies to bulk carriers carrying bulk cargoes having a density of 1780kg/m³ and above);
- (4) carrying bulk cargoes on or after the date stipulated by the SOLAS regulation XII/3;
- (5) carrying solid bulk cargoes density of which is declared between 1250kg/m³ and 1780kg/m³ by shipper before loading.

IMO's Maritime Safety Committee at its 71st session held in May 1999, details of the measurement method were approved for circulation among IMO members, which is attached hereto for your information.

Please note that this society does not provide services regarding verification of cargo density as prescribed above.

Attachment: MSC/Circ. 908

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MSC/Circ.908
4 June 1999

UNIFORM METHOD OF MEASUREMENT OF THE DENSITY OF BULK CARGOES

- 1 SOLAS regulation XII/10 (Solid bulk cargo density declaration), as adopted by the 1997 SOLAS Conference on Bulk Carrier Safety and interpreted by operative paragraph 4 of resolution MSC 79 (70), requires the shipper, prior to loading bulk cargo on a bulk carrier, to declare the density of the cargo which shall be verified by an accredited testing organization.
- 2 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-first session (19 to 28 May 1999), recognizing the need for a uniform method of density measurement of the bulk cargoes, adopted the performance specification for the measurement of the density of such cargoes set out at annex.
- 3 Member Governments are invited to bring this circular to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

**PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATION FOR THE MEASUREMENT
OF THE DENSITY OF BULK CARGOES*****1 Scope**

- 1.1 This specification may be used to determine the bulk density of bulk cargoes.
- 1.2 Bulk density is the weight of solids, air and water per unit volume. It includes the moisture content of the cargo and the voids whether filled with air or water.
- 1.3 The density should be expressed in kilograms per cubic metre (kg/m^3).

2 Apparatus

- 2.1 This specification provides for the use of a container of known volume and tare weight.
- 2.2 The container should be sufficiently rigid to prevent deformation or volume changes occurring during the test. Where the material contains lumps, or will not readily flow into corners, the container should be of cylindrical shape and/or of large size in comparison to the size of lumps. Its capacity must be large enough to contain a representative sample of the cargo for which the density is to be determined.
- 2.3 The internal surfaces of the container should be smooth with any attachments such as handles being fitted to the exterior.
- 2.4 Weighing should be done using a weighing instrument certificated by an accredited testing organization.

3 Procedure

- 3.1 A sample that is representative of the particle size, compaction and moisture of the material to be loaded on the ship should be selected.
- 3.2 The container should be filled with a sample of the material so that it is trimmed level with the top of the container. **The material should not be tamped.**
- 3.3 The weight of the filled container should be measured and the tare weight subtracted to obtain the weight of the sample.
- 3.4 The density of the sample should be calculated by dividing the weight of the bulk material to be loaded by the volume of the container.

4 Recording results

- 4.1 The density of the sample should be recorded using the recommended form given in the appendix and made available when requested.
- 4.2 The result of the density measurement should be signed by a representative of the accredited testing organization.

* Reference is made to paragraph 1.10 - "Representative test sample" and Appendix D - "Laboratory test procedures, associated apparatus and standards" of the Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes (BC Code).

Appendix

RECORD OF DENSITY MEASUREMENT

The density of the cargo has been measured in accordance with the uniform method of density measurement of bulk cargoes described in the annex to MSC/Circ.908 which refers to SOLAS regulation XII/10.

Cargo: (name and relevant reference in the BC Code):

Shipper (name, address, telephone, etc.) :

Sample origin (stock pile, ship's hold, etc.) :

Date (sampling and density measurement) :

Gross weight (GW) (container plus sample) : kg

Tare weight (TW) (container) : kg

Net weight (NW) (sample) (NW=GW-TW): kg

Volume (V) (container) : m³

Calculated density (d) of the cargo (d= NW/V) : kg/m³

Measurement conducted by the accredited testing organization
(Signature, stamp)

Done on at
