
 STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1980 No. 789

MERCHANT SHIPPING

**The Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods) (Amendment) Rules
1980**

Made - - - - - 9th June 1980
Laid before Parliament 10th June 1980
Coming into Operation 1st July 1980

The Secretary of State, in exercise of powers conferred by section 23 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Act 1949(a) and now vested in him (b) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Rules:—

1. These Rules may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods) (Amendment) Rules 1980 and shall come into operation on 1st July 1980.

2. The Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods) (Amendment) Rules 1979(c) are hereby revoked.

3. The Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods) Rules 1978(d) shall be amended as follows:

(1) In Rule 1(2):

for the definitions of "The Blue Book" and "The IMDG Code" there shall be substituted:

"The Blue Book means the 1978 Report of the Department of Trade's Standing Advisory Committee on the Carriage of Dangerous Goods in Ships as amended by Amendment No. 1 of 1979 and Amendment No. 2 of 1980;

"The IMDG Code" means the 1977 edition of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, as amended by Amendments Nos. 14, 15 and 16, published by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation ("IMCO")."

(2) In Rule 3:

(a) in sub-paragraph (a) for "clearly" there shall be substituted "durably";

(b) after sub-paragraph (b) there shall be added:

"For the purposes of this Rule, "durably marked" means that it will be identifiable on packages or receptacles surviving at least three months in the sea."

(3) In Rule 8(1):

(a) in sub-paragraph (b) for "9 kilogrammes" there shall be substituted "10 kilogrammes";

(a) 1949 c. 43. (b) See S.I. 1970/1537. (c) S.I. 1979/976. (d) S.I. 1978/1543.

(b) in sub-paragraph (c) for "1016 kilogrammes" there shall be substituted "1000 kilogrammes".

Norman Tebbit,
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Trade.

9th June 1980.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Rules.)

These Rules amend the Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods) Rules 1978, and revoke the Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods) (Amendment) Rules 1979. The Blue Book and the IMDG Code, referred to in the Rules have now been further amended and these Rules make the necessary amendments (Rule 1).

Further provision is made as to the marking of dangerous goods carried aboard ships. Packages or receptacles are now required to be durably marked, that is to say, the marking must remain identifiable on packages or receptacles surviving at least 3 months in the sea (Rule 3).

Rule 8 of the Rules relates, amongst other things, to the carriage of explosives and distress signals aboard ships carrying more than 12 passengers: the total weight of explosives is increased from 9 to 10 kilogrammes and the total weight of distress signals is reduced from 1016 to 1000 kilogrammes. These amendments give effect to the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (Cmnd. 7874).

The Blue Book and amendments may be purchased from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. The IMDG Code and amendments may be purchased from the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation, London.