

Meeting: 6th SSN / LRIT Group Meeting

Place and date: Lisbon, 31 October 2019

Agenda item: Central HAZMAT Database (CHD) new developments

Document number: SSN/LRIT 6.3.6

Submitted by EMSA

Summary	Presents new developments of the CHD implemented in 2019 following the request from MS
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 3.
Related documents	n.a.

1 Background

Following the prior approval of the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), the IMSBC and the IMDG Codes are revised every two years, and have a transitional period of one year. These changes to the IMDG Code may reflect the inclusion of newly classified dangerous substances/articles, amendments to or deletions of existing entries; new technology and new methods of handling dangerous goods; safety concerns which arise as a result of human experience; and new materials and designs for packaging. Changes to the IMSBC Code may be due to changes in the nature and variety of solid bulk cargoes presented for shipment and advances in expert understanding regarding the safest ways to carry established solid bulk cargoes.

A new IMSBC Code will come into force (becomes mandatory by law) every odd year whereas with the IMDG Code a new edition comes into force every even year. Before the new edition of the Code becomes mandatory, there is a transitional period of time when the new edition of the code may be applied voluntarily. The lists of dangerous goods in the other legal instruments (IBC, IGC and MARPOL Annex 1) are updated as the need arises and therefore do not have a fixed cycle for revision but can be updated at any time. The CHD currently provides only the mandatory versions of the applicable IMO Codes (IBC, IGC, IMDG and IMSBC) and Conventions (MARPOL Annex I).

At the 3rd SafeSeaNet/LRIT Group meeting, Belgium presented a paper for new functionalities for the SSN Central Hazmat Database (CHD). The Group agreed that the CHD should be upgraded to allow management of and access to both the mandatory and voluntary versions of these IMO Codes and Conventions. This functionality shall be available in the CHD web application and the system-to-system interfaces.

2 Current Status

2.1 New functionalities

The new functionalities allowing the CHD to manage the mandatory and voluntary versions of the Codes have been developed and are currently being tested. The new release of the CHD web application interface will allow a user to:

- i. Perform a search of the IMO codes in the CHD and view the results of the search in three tabs, search results from the mandatory version of the Code, search results from the voluntary version of the Code, and search results from both versions of the Code.
- ii. Compare the mandatory and voluntary versions for differences between the same item. The differences are highlighted.
- iii. Export the mandatory and voluntary versions of the specific code in XLSX, CSV and PDF format.

The same functions will be provided in the system-2-system interface version. The new functions will become available in the next release of the CHD in November 2019.

EMSA accesses the IMO Codes and Conventions from RuleCheck. Due to the update cycle of RuleCheck, there could, on some occasions be a delay in the availability of the voluntary version of the code in RuleCheck, and consequently in the CHD. The mandatory version of the code will always be available on time.

2.2 Timeline for future amendments of the IMO Codes in the CHD

The 101st session of the MSC (05-14 June 2019) adopted amendments to the IBC Code, to enter into force on 1 January 2020, and the IMSBC Code to enter into force on 1 January 2021, but applied on a voluntary basis from 1 January 2020.

Furthermore, the Sixth Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC 6) (09-13 September 2020) approved editorial corrections to the IMDG Code amendment 39-18, adopted by resolution MSC.442(99) which will enter into force (becomes mandatory) on 1 January 2020.

The relevant IMO codes in the CHD will be updated accordingly by 1 January 2020 (depending the availability of the amendments in RuleCheck).

3 Actions required

Member States are invited to take note of the above information.