

RULECHECK LAUNCHED



From left: Alan Cubbin (RuleCheck Project Manager), Willem de Ruiter (EMSA Executive Director), Brian Hogan (PMoU Chairman) and Richard Schiferli (PMoU Secretary General) at the RuleCheck launch.

EMSA has just launched the new RuleCheck system for port state control officers (PSCOs). The system will enable ship inspections in ports to be undertaken more efficiently and effectively. Over time, the international rules governing port state control related ship inspections have become more and more complex, so RuleCheck has been developed to make the inspector's job easier. PSCOs only have to input the ship type and the date of build (as a minimum) and they can immediately obtain the full set of regulations which apply to the ship being inspected without having to refer to any other source. RuleCheck was developed under a contract with the Korean Register of Shipping and in collaboration with the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (PMoU).

NEW EMSA OIL RECOVERY VESSELS

On 27th November, EMSA finalised contracts to strengthen its oil pollution response coverage in the Atlantic and Mediterranean areas. The new vessels in the network will be based in Ireland, Spain, Italy and Greece. All of them will be equipped during the first half of 2008 and will become operational as pollution response vessels by mid-2008. The EMSA network now covers the Baltic, Atlantic and Mediterranean areas, both with primary vessels and back-ups, and this means that the network is nearing completion. The remaining loopholes, including the Black Sea, will be addressed in 2008.

CLEANSEANET HELPS WITH OIL SPILL

On 12th December, around 3,840 tonnes of crude oil leaked into the North Sea when a hose ruptured during tanker loading operations at the Statfjord Alpha platform 200 km west of Bergen in Norway. Following a request from

the Norwegian authorities, the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) in Brussels activated the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters in order to obtain satellite images of the affected area. As the operator of the CleanSeaNet satellite based pollution monitoring system, EMSA was designated as project manager for the operations and it is presently providing satellite images from Envisat, ERS-2, Alos and Radarsat-1, of the spill area to the relevant parties.

UPDATED OIL DISPERSANT INVENTORY

EMSA has just produced the second edition of the Inventory of National Policies Regarding the Use of Oil Spill Dispersants in the EU Member States. This provides information on the usage of oil spill dispersants, on testing and approval procedures, and on the available equipment and dispersant stockpiles in each of the EU coastal Member States, Iceland and Norway. In order to produce the new inventory, EMSA recently requested each Member State to review and update their respective profile with current data. All changes and comments submitted have been incorporated in this new 2007 version, which is available on the EMSA website at:

www.emsa.europa.eu

EMSA SOON TO MOVE TO PERMANENT HQ



EMSA permanent headquarters on Tagus in Lisbon.

A group of Board and staff members visited the Agency's future headquarters at Cais do Sodré in the middle of Lisbon on 27 November to assess the state of development of the project. The almost completed building will house up to two hundred staff in modern facilities, thus allowing for future growth. The move is planned for the first half of 2008.

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