



## INFORMATION LETTER 002-2010

to

**all Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managing Owners, Classification Societies,  
Masters and Officers**

### **International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code**

The International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code was adopted during the 85<sup>th</sup> session of the Maritime Safety Committee through resolution MSC.268 (85) and MSC 269 (85).

The new IMSBC Code will replace the existing Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes, 2004 adopted by resolution MSC.193 (79), and will be mandatory through the SOLAS Convention (as amended) from **1<sup>st</sup> January 2011**.

The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS Convention) as amended, deals with various aspects of maritime safety and contains, in parts A and B of chapter VI and part A-1 of chapter VII, the mandatory provisions governing the carriage of solid bulk cargoes and the carriage of dangerous goods in solid form in bulk, respectively.

These provisions are amplified in the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code (IMSBC) Code.

The provisions contained in the IMSBC Code apply to all ships to which the SOLAS Convention, as amended, applies and that are carrying solid bulk cargoes as defined in regulation 2 of part A of chapter VI of the Convention.

To facilitate the safe transport of solid bulk cargoes, the provisions of the Code can be applied from 1 January 2009 on a voluntary basis.

Observance of the Code harmonises the practices and procedures to be followed and appropriate precautions to be taken in the loading, trimming, carriage and discharge of solid bulk cargoes when transported by sea, ensuring compliance with the mandatory provisions of the SOLAS Convention.

All Shipowners, Ship Operators, Ship Managers, Classification Societies, Masters and Officers are reminded that the IMSBC Code will take effect on **1 January 2011** upon entry into force of amendments to chapters VI and VII of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974 (as amended).

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