



REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice
No. 2-011-2
Rev. Nov/2022

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code and Medical Oxygen Cylinder
Requirements

- References:**
- (a) SOLAS, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea*, Consolidated Edition 2020
 - (b) MARPOL, *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*, Consolidated Edition 2022
 - (c) IMDG Code, *International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code and Supplement*, 2020 Edition
 - (d) IMO Resolution [MSC.501\(105\)](#), *Amendments to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code*, adopted 28 April 2022
 - (e) IMSBC Code, *International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code*, 2020 Edition
 - (f) IGC Code, *International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk*, 2016 Edition
 - (g) RMI Maritime Act ([MI-107](#))
 - (h) RMI Maritime Regulations ([MI-108](#))

PURPOSE

This Notice provides the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code requirements for Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)-flagged vessels. It supersedes version Oct/2021.

This Notice was revised to incorporate the 2022 amendments to the IMDG Code (IMO Resolution MSC.501(105)).

APPLICABILITY

- a) The provisions in the IMDG Code apply to all vessels to which:
 - the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) applies, and
 - which are carrying dangerous goods, as defined in SOLAS, Chapter VII.

They also apply to all ships, regardless of type and size, carrying marine pollutants, as defined in the IMDG Code. Marine pollutants in packaged form are also subject to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), Annex III, in accordance with the RMI Maritime Regulations ([MI-108](#)), §2.13.4.

- b) The 2022 IMDG Code amendments, also known as Amendment 41-22, enter into force 1 January 2024. They may be applied in whole or in part on a voluntary basis from 1 January 2023.
- c) The Medical First Aid Guide (MFAG) applies to all vessels carrying cargoes which have a United Nations (UN) number. The MFAG, including the requirements for medical oxygen carriage, also applies to:
- gas carriers and chemical tankers whose keels were laid on or after 1 July 2016;¹ and
 - existing gas carriers and chemical tankers not currently provided with medical oxygen, at their next intermediate or renewal survey after 1 July 2016.²

It must be used in conjunction with other relevant IMO Codes and procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 General

- 1.1 Dangerous goods and marine pollutants must be carried and shipped in accordance with the IMDG Code and the RMI Maritime Act ([MI-107](#)), §404(2).
- 1.2 The IMDG Code is a mandatory instrument under SOLAS, Chapter VII. However, some parts of the Code, as listed in Chapter 1.1.1, remain recommendatory.
- 1.3 Compliance is also required with all relevant requirements of SOLAS, Chapter II-2.

2.0 Carriage of Publications

The IMDG Code (Volume 1, Volume 2, and the Supplement) must be carried on board all RMI vessels to which the IMDG Code applies. Electronic or hard copy versions are acceptable.

1. This is pursuant to new International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk, adopted by Res. MSC.370(93), paragraph 14.2.2.
2. This is an RMI national requirement.

3.0 Medical Oxygen Cylinders

- 3.1 For certain cargoes, the IMDG Code requires the carriage of oxygen resuscitation equipment as specified in the MFAG. Vessels subject to MFAG Column A or B are required to carry a minimum of 44 liters/200 bar oxygen as follows:
 - .1 one 40 liter/200 bar medical oxygen cylinder located in the vessel's hospital, assembled for direct use, equipped with one flowmeter unit (with two ports) for supplying oxygen for two persons simultaneously; and
 - .2 one complete portable set, ready for use, with a 2 liter/200 bar medical oxygen cylinder and a spare cylinder (also 2 liter/200 bar).
- 3.2 The single 40 liter/200 bar medical oxygen cylinder may be substituted with either two 20 liter/200 bar cylinders or four 10 liter/200 bar cylinders, provided the equipment/flowmeter units are arranged to supply oxygen to two persons simultaneously.
- 3.3 Medical oxygen cylinders with less than a 200 bar filling pressure may be used provided that the total volume of oxygen delivered by multiple cylinders is at least equal to that contained in a 40 liter/200 bar cylinder or a 2 liter/200 bar cylinder as required by §3.1 of this Notice. This can be achieved by the supply of additional cylinder(s). To ensure that the correct volume is substituted, consultation with the manufacturer is required prior to their use onboard the vessel. In addition:
 - .1 the filling pressure for all cylinders must be the same;
 - .2 the cylinders must be stored in a fixed position to limit movements during bad weather conditions;
 - .3 the cylinders must be fitted with a pressure regulating unit and pressure gauge, with one extra key to open the cylinder; and
 - .4 all cylinders must have the same connectors and color.
- 3.4 The cylinders must be hydrostatically tested every five years, or at an interval specified by the manufacturer, whichever occurs sooner.
- 3.5 The contents of the cylinders must be checked and changed as required by the manufacturer's instructions.
- 3.6 The entire system must be inspected annually by a competent person in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- 3.7 It is acceptable that a vessel issued with a valid Document of Compliance for Dangerous Goods does not need to carry medical oxygen cylinders when not actually loading, carrying, or discharging dangerous goods.
- 3.8 The shipboard Safety Management System (SMS) must include provisions to ensure that the cylinders and system will be provided onboard before the vessel begins any of these operations with dangerous goods.