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FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 062718.GEN

Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators, Masters of Vanuatu-registered ships and Recognized Organizations
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Resolution A.1122(30)

**Code for the Transport and Handling of Hazardous and Noxious Liquid Substances
in Bulk on Offshore Support Vessels (OSV CHEMICAL CODE)**

1. Vanuatu adopted Resolution A.673(16) "**Guidelines for the Transport and Handling of Limited Amounts of Hazardous and Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk in Offshore Support Vessels**", as amended, and it has been applied to existing Offshore Support Vessels (OSVs) which transport limited amounts of substances in bulk listed under paragraph 1.2.2 of the Guidelines.
 - 1a. An existing OSV is a vessel which keel is laid on or after 19 April 1990 but prior to 1 July 2018:
19 April 1990 ≤ Keel Laying Date (KLD) < 1 July 2018.
2. Vanuatu will adopt the OSV Chemical Code in the near future. In the interim, the Code should be applied as recommended by the Organization, i.e. OSVs engaged in the carriage of the products identified in paragraph 1.1.9 of the Code with KLD on or after 1 July 2018 should comply with the provisions of the Code.
3. Application of the provisions of the Code to existing OSVs (19 April 1990 ≤ KLD < 1 July 2018) certificated under the provisions of Resolution A.673(16), as amended, will be handled on the case by case basis except as described under paragraph 4 of this Safety Letter.
4. Chapter 16 - Backloading of Contaminated Bulk Liquids
 - 4a. Paragraph 1.2.4 of the Code defines **Backload** as *contaminated bulk liquids, taken on board a vessel offshore, for transport either back to shore or to an alternate offshore site.*
 - 4b. Paragraph 16.2.1 specifies that this chapter is applicable to new (KLD ≥ 1 July 2018) and existing (19 April 1990 ≤ KLD < 1 July 2018) vessels.
 - 4c. Based on paragraph 2 of this Safety Letter, new OSVs should comply with all the requirements of this chapter.

4d. Existing OSVs currently certificated under the provisions of the Guidelines

If the local authorities of the area where the OSV is operating have established requirements to transport backload and the vessel complies with the local requirements, a statement could be issued by this Administration to confirm acceptance of the local requirements in lieu of this chapter.

If no local requirements have been established, the company should submit a proposal to the Administration explaining the process to ensure that arrangements and procedures are provided to control potential accumulation of hydrogen sulphide, an explosive atmosphere, and other potential hazards produced by the backload. Upon satisfactory review of the proposal, the Administration will provide a statement confirming acceptance of the company procedures in lieu of this chapter.

4e. Existing OSVs obtaining certification under the provisions of A.673(16), as amended, for the first time on or after 1 July 2018 must meet the requirements of chapter 16 of the OSV Code prior to the issuance of the certificate of fitness.

5. Clarification

5a. Paragraph 1.1.4 of the Code specifies that existing OSVs (19 April 1990 ≤ KLD < 1 July 2018) may be permitted to carry products assigned SHIP TYPE 2 provided that those OSVs comply with the Code, except for chapter 2.

5b. Backload has been identified as **Offshore contaminated bulk liquid P*** and **Offshore contaminated bulk liquid S*** (See MEPC.2/Circ.23) and have been provisionally categorized to be transported on board SHIP TYPE 2 vessels.

*These entries are to be used solely for backloading of contaminated bulk liquids from offshore installations used in the search and exploitation of seabed mineral resources.

5c. This Administration's understanding is that there is no need to comply with the provisions of paragraph 1.1.4 to transport the products identified above in 5(b).

We kindly request the cooperation of all concerned parties



Roderick A. Acquie
by the direction of the
Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs
The Republic of Vanuatu

