



THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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22 March 2021

MARINE OPERATIONS NOTE 01/2021

Subject: Continued Carriage of Limited Amounts of Liquid Chemicals in Bulk for Existing Offshore Support Vessels (OSV)

- Ref: (a): **Resolution MEPC.318(74)/Resolution MSC.460(101)** – 2019 Amendments to The International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code)
- (b): **Resolution A.673(16)** – 1989, Guidelines for the Transport and Handling of Limited Amounts of Hazardous and Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk on Offshore Support Vessels (LHNS Guidelines) and **Resolution MSC.236(82)**, Amendments to A.673(16)
- (c): **Resolution A.1122(30)** – 2017, Code for the Transport and Handling of Hazardous and Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk on Offshore Support Vessels (OSV Chemical Code)

Purpose

This Marine Operations Note provides information and practical guidance for shipowners, operators, and recognized organizations on the Liberian Administrations' policy for the continued carriage of dangerous chemicals and noxious liquid substances in bulk on existing offshore support vessels (OSV). The amendments to the IBC Code adopted by **Resolution MEPC.318(74)/Resolution MSC.460(101)**, which entered into force on 01 January 2021, also affect the substances OSV's can carry. This Administration has adopted policy allowing existing OSV's to continue to carry substances they are currently certified to carry for an additional period, to provide time for the vessels to be brought into compliance with the applicable revised requirements for those substances.

Background

Resolution MEPC.318(74)/Resolutions MSC.460(101) amended the IBC Code and the carriage requirements for many dangerous chemicals and noxious liquid substances, including those contained in the LHNS Guidelines. The only cargoes not affected by the amendments are:

1. Oil-based and water-based muds containing mixtures of products listed in chapters 17 and 18 of the IBC Code and the MEPC.2/Circular and permitted to be carried under paragraph 1.2 of these Guidelines
2. Drilling Brines - Sodium Chloride Solution
3. Potassium Chloride Solution
4. Ethyl Alcohol
5. Acetic acid
6. Triethylene Glycol

All other cargoes are affected and have new, additional requirements in order to be carried.

Operational Guidance

For existing OSV's previously carrying cargoes other than or in addition to those listed above, and which comply with **Resolution A.673(16)**, as amended, this Administration will allow the OSV to continue to operate until 31 December 2021. This will enable the OSV to achieve compliance with the revised carriage requirements, while carrying those products listed on its current Certificate of Fitness, provided the coastal State has no objection during this transitional period.

The Certificate of Fitness and related addendum will be reissued with validity until 31 December 2021 with a note referring to the flag State's agreement and that operation outside Liberian territorial waters is subject to coastal State acceptance. No additional products will be allowed to be added during this time, unless the OSV complies with the revised carriage requirements for that product.

Owners and operators of existing OSV's are encouraged to take this time until 31 December 2021 to evaluate whether they should bring their vessel into compliance with the requirements of **Resolution A.1122(30)**, which would allow the OSV to carry a broader range and quantity of products, or to continue to operate under and carry only those products permitted by **Resolution A.673(16)**, as amended.

The vessel's Classification Society should be contacted to assist in this evaluation, considering the products to be carried and the corresponding new requirements for the carriage of those product(s). If it is found during the evaluation of an OSV that equivalent measures are needed for compliance, the vessel's Classification Society is to provide its risk assessment and recommendation(s) to this Administration for acceptance. The Administration will review the risk assessment to determine if compliance can be demonstrated through the alternative design and arrangement option and thereby justify an equivalent level of safety.

If you have any questions please contact Regulations and Standards Department at RegsAndStandards@lisr.com or telephone +1 703 790 3434.