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## DISPOSAL OF FUMIGANT MATERIAL

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its fifty-third session (18 to 22 July 2005), and the Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-first session (10 to 19 May 2006), considered a report, concerning the discharge of active packages of the cargo fumigant Magnesium Phosphide into New Zealand's marine waters.

2 The Committees' attention was drawn to the fact that, while there appeared to be no prohibition on the discharge of such material pursuant to the existing marine pollution prevention conventions, the discharge of active packages producing phosphine gas, represented a significant risk to the public who may encounter them at sea.

3 The attention of Member Governments is, therefore, drawn to the following observations.

4 The most recent version of the IMO Recommendations on the Safe Use of Pesticides in Ships, incorporated into the Supplement to the IMDG Code (hereafter referred to as IMO Recommendations) recommends, *inter alia*, that:

- .1 fumigation of this nature should only be undertaken by a suitably qualified and trained person;
- .2 a "fumigator-in-charge" should be designated by the fumigation company, government agency or appropriate authority. He should be able to provide documentation to the master confirming his competence and authorization;
- .3 the master should be provided with written instructions by the fumigator-in-charge on the type of fumigant used, the hazards involved, the threshold limit values (TLV) and the precautions to be taken, and in view of the highly toxic nature of all commonly used fumigants these should be followed carefully;
- .4 clear written instructions should be given to the master of the ship, to the receiver of the cargo and to the authorities at the discharging port as to how any powdery residues are to be disposed of. Furthermore, with regard to fumigation to be continued in transit, the ship should carry instructions on the disposal of residual material; and
- .5 annex 4 of the IMO Recommendations also provides a Model Checklist for in-transit fumigation with phosphine, which should be completed and signed by both the fumigator-in-charge and the master.

5 It is, therefore, recommended that Member Governments issue regulations to oblige ships that carry solid cargoes requiring fumigation, to ensure that all waste and residues are disposed of in appropriate manner, either by incineration or by disposal on shore, as recommended by the manufacturer.

6 Member Governments are invited to bring the above information to the attention of shipowners, ship operators, companies, shipmasters, fumigation companies and all other parties concerned, requesting that appropriate action be taken in accordance with the provisions of the relevant IMO instruments.

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