



The International Vessel Operators Hazardous Materials Association (VOHMA) has issued training guidelines to assist shippers, carriers and transporters of dangerous goods/hazardous materials with compliance in Amendment 34-08 of the IMDG Code which became mandatory January 1, 2010. Among other provisions, Amendment 34-08 of the IMDG Code mandates training for shore-side personnel involved in the preparation, handling and transport of dangerous goods by sea.

The International Maritime Organization (effective IMDG Code Amdt. 34-08), the European Union, the International Civil Aviation Organization, Transport Canada and the US Department of Transportation mandate that hazmat/dangerous goods employers provide hazardous materials/dangerous goods and security training for their employees. Employers of shippers who prepare hazardous materials/dangerous goods for transportation by water, water carriers, and associated industries such as freight forwarders, and NVOCCs are required to train their employees within 90 days of employment, and to provide recurrent training whenever significant amendments in the appropriate regulatory codes affect the performance of a hazardous material function.

Section 1.3.1.5 of the IMDG Code identifies recommended training needs for shore-side personnel involved in the transport of dangerous goods under the IMDG Code. Section 1.3.1.6 provides an indicative table of applicable sections appropriate for inclusion in the training for a given function. Section 1.4.2.3.1 also specifies that the training required by Chapter 1.3 shall also include elements of security awareness.

VOHMA is an international organization comprised of representatives of the ocean common carriers of the world, operating under the flags of several nations, dedicated to improving the understanding and uniform application of rules and regulations governing maritime dangerous goods/hazardous materials transportation, including the IMDG Code. Collectively, VOHMA members are responsible for the safe transportation of over 85% of the ocean borne container traffic. One of VOHMA's primary missions is to ensure that the need for a consistent harmonized approach to providing training to the dangerous goods/hazardous materials industry is recognized throughout the transportation chain.

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In order to assist members and others in the transportation industry, VOHMA has continued to offer public training courses, customized on-site training courses, train-the-trainer programs, web-based training courses, and has developed new online training programs..

After 20 years of training thousands of transportation professionals on the IMDG Code, VOHMA recognizes that a blended approach to assisting industry meet the mandates of the IMDG Code and other regulatory bodies is the only viable solution. VOHMA Senior Technical Consultant and Administrator, John Currie notes that “the increased risk of having a serious incident at sea or within the multi-modal feeder systems has driven an increased need for the mandating of training of dangerous goods employees globally.

The employer is responsible for verifying that their employees have been adequately trained to meet the needs of their specific job function.

Human error has been cited as the single largest cause or contributing factor in transportation disasters and accidents involving products of industries as diverse as nuclear power, chemical distribution, aviation, space exploration, alternative energy, and medicine.” VOHMA and its members are committed to ensuring that quality training is available to all segments of the industry.

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IMDG Code 1.3.1.5

Function	Specific Training Requirements	Numbers in this column refer to the list of related codes and publications in 1.3.1.7
1. Classify dangerous goods and identify Proper Shipping Name	Classification requirements, in particular: – the structure of the description of substances – the classes of dangerous goods and the principles of their classification – the nature of the dangerous substances and articles transported (their physical, chemical and toxicological properties) – the procedure for classifying solutions and mixtures – identification by Proper Shipping Name – use of Dangerous Goods List	.1, .4, .5 and .12
2. Pack dangerous goods	Classes Packaging requirements: – type of packages (IBC, large packaging, tank container and bulk container) – UN marking for approved packagings – segregation requirements – limited quantities and excepted quantities Marking and labelling First aid measures Emergency response procedures Safe handling procedures	.1 and .4
3. Mark, label or placard dangerous goods	Classes Marking, labelling and placarding requirements – primary and subsidiary risk labels – marine pollutants – limited quantities and excepted quantities	.1
4. Load/unload cargo transport units*	Documentation Classes Marking, labelling and placarding Stowage requirements, where applicable Segregation requirements Cargo securing requirements (as contained in the IMO/ILO/UN ECE guidelines) Emergency response procedures First aid measures CSC requirements Safe handling procedures	.1,.6,.7 and 8
5. Prepare transport documents for dangerous goods	Documentation requirements – transport document – container/vehicle packing certificate – competent authorities' approval – waste transport documentation – special documentation, where appropriate	.1

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6. Offer dangerous goods for transport	Thorough knowledge of the IMDG Code Local requirements at loading and discharge ports – port byelaws – national transport regulations	.1 to .10 and .12
7. Accept dangerous goods for transport	Thorough knowledge of the IMDG Code Local requirements at loading, transiting, and discharge ports – port byelaws, in particular quantity limitations – national transport regulations	. 1 to .12
8. Handle dangerous goods in transport	Classes and their hazards Marking, labelling and placarding Emergency response procedures First aid measures Safe handling procedures such as – use of equipment – appropriate tools – safe working loads CSC requirements, local requirements at loading, transit and discharge ports Port byelaws, in particular, quantity limitation National transport regulations	. 1, .2, .3, .6, .7, .8 and .10
9. Prepare dangerous goods loading/stowage plans	Documentation Classes Stowage requirements Segregation requirements Document of compliance Relevant IMDG Code parts, local requirements at loading, transit and discharge ports Port byelaws, in particular, quantity limitations	. 1, .10, .11, and .12
10. Load/unload dangerous goods into/from ships	Classes and their hazards Marking, labelling and placarding Emergency response procedures First aid measures Safe handling procedures such as – use of equipment – appropriate tools – safe working loads Cargo securing requirements CSC requirements, local requirements at loading, transit and discharge ports Port byelaws, in particular, quantity limitation National transport regulations	.1, .2, .3, .7, .9, .10 and .12

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11. Carry dangerous goods	Documentation Classes Marking, labelling and placarding Stowage requirements, where applicable Segregation requirements Local requirements at loading, transit and discharge ports – port byelaws, in particular, quantity limitations – national transport regulations Cargo securing requirements (as contained in the IMO/ILO/UN ECE guidelines) Emergency response procedures First aid measures CSC requirements Safe handling procedures	.1, .2, .3, .6, .7, .10, .11 and .12
12. Enforce or survey or inspect for compliance with applicable rules and regulations	Knowledge of IMDG Code and relevant guidelines and safety procedures	.1 to .12
13. Are otherwise involved in the transport of dangerous goods, as determined by the competent authority	As required by the competent authority commensurate with the task assigned	-

*Definition as per IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo Transport Units.

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IMDG Code 1.3.1.7

Related Codes and publications which may be appropriate for function-specific training

1. International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code, as amended
2. The EmS Guide: Emergency Response Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods (EmS), as amended
3. Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods (MFAG), as amended
4. United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods – Model Regulations, as amended
5. United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods – Manual of Tests and Criteria, as amended
6. IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTUs)
7. Recommendations on the Safe Transport of Dangerous Cargoes and Related Activities in Port Areas
8. International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC), 1972, as amended
9. Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing (CSS Code), as amended
10. MSC.1/Circ.1265 Recommendations on the safe use of pesticides in ships applicable to the fumigation of cargo transport units
11. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974, as amended
12. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973 as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78), as amended

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