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M93/33/1/2

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
Chief Directorate Shipping
Private Bag x193
PRETORIA
0001

26 November 1993

MARINE NOTICE NO. 23 OF 1993.

TO ALL MASTERS, MATES AND SHIPS AGENTS

SPILLAGE OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

1. In a recent casualty, a container, loaded with a noxious liquid substance (IMO Class 6.1), packed in 210 litre drums, was damaged during heavy weather. The container had collapsed and a number of the drums were leaking. Some 30 persons were hospitalised with severe respiratory problems after inhaling the poisonous vapours.
2. The casualty investigation revealed that neither the Master, nor the Chief Officer, had made any effort to establish the nature of the cargo or its (potential) hazards. A copy of the IMDG-Code was on board. Volumes 1 to 4 of the Code give detailed product information, whilst Volume 5 contains Chapters on Emergency Procedures and Medical First Aid. Chapter 4 of Volume 5 furthermore deals with the Reporting Procedures on incidents involving harmful substances. Particular attention should be paid to Appendix 1 of said Chapter.
3. Masters and Mates should thoroughly familiarise themselves with the nature and the inherent hazards of the cargoes they carry in their ships. Where hazardous cargoes are carried in containers, the ship's agent should ensure that the Master is given full information on these cargoes before they are loaded onto the ship.
4. In cases where harmful substances in packaged form are damaged and where there is a probability of leakage or discharge of these substances, the Master shall report the particulars of such incident without delay and to the fullest extent possible to the nearest Proper Officer of the Department of Transport or to the Port Captain of the nearest Port. The report shall be made in accordance with the provisions of "Protocol 1 to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended" (Appendix 1, Chapter 4, Volume 5 of IMDG-Code).



for DIRECTOR-GENERAL: TRANSPORT

HP/15/MASTERS