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Expert Parties Engaged in Visual and/or Sampling Checks for Preparation of Inventory of Hazardous Materials

1. Introduction

This recommendation gives guidelines intended for ship owners regarding the use of expert parties for onboard visual and/or sampling checks, including the use of services from laboratories carrying out testing of samples.

2. Expert parties engaged in visual and/or sampling checks

2.1 General

The following guidance may be used by ship owners when selecting expert parties engaged in visual and/or sampling checks for hazardous materials onboard existing ships as specified in "Guidelines for the development of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials" (Res.MEPC.179(59)) and Appendix 1 and 2 of the Annex to the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009, and which can advise on quantities and locations of samples, taking of samples in a safe manner as well as prepare reports on the quantities, locations and estimates of these onboard materials.

Visual and/or sampling checks shall be executed by persons with professional knowledge of hazardous materials licensed as required and, who are trained and equipped experts, in particular with regards to the evaluation and sampling of hazardous materials and materials containing hazardous materials as:

Appendix 1

- Asbestos;
- PCB;
- Ozone depleting substances; and
- Anti-fouling systems containing organotin compounds as a biocide.

Appendix 2

- Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds;
- Hexavalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium Compounds;
- Lead and Lead Compounds;
- Mercury and Mercury Compounds;
- Polybrominated Biphenyl (PBBs);
- Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs);
- Polychlorinated Naphthalenes (more than 3 chlorine atoms);
- Radioactive Substances;
- Certain Shortchain Chlorinated Paraffins (Alkanes, C10-C13, chloro).

Expert parties should have documented quality systems covering all relevant activities. An accredited quality system that complies with the current version of the ISO 9000 series would be acceptable.

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2.2 Expert parties engaged in visual and/or sampling checks

Expert parties carrying out sampling checks shall use appropriate laboratories engaged in the testing of samples which should be accredited or certified according to recognized standards. Specific equipment used on-board the ship for the purpose of sampling checks should be duly calibrated and/or certified according to recognized standards.

Expert parties carrying out visual and/or sampling checks of relevant hazardous materials shall have professional knowledge of ship structures, equipment, hazardous materials and materials used for ship structures and equipment, taking of samples handling of such materials.

2.3 Work shall be executed in accordance with documented work and safety procedures that contain at least the following:

- information on survey preparation;
- safety procedures relevant to the hazards;
- selection and identification of visual and/or sampling check locations;
- material preparation;
- sample removal;
- reinstatement of safe conditions for the material once the sample is taken;
- sample storage, identification and transport requirements; and
- report preparation and content.

Reports shall be based on the IMO Guidelines for the Development of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials Resolution MEPC.179(59).

2.4 Expert parties engaged in visual and/or sampling checks shall document each job by including the signatures of operator's designated responsible person in the final report for verification purposes.

2.5 Such expert parties shall provide evidence of all the necessary training, qualifications, licenses or equivalent thereto and the work and safety procedures for visual and/or sampling checks and the handling of specified hazardous material(s), in accordance with recognized national or international standards or the equivalent thereto, and other associated work practices as applicable.

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