

# Is your solid bulk cargo harmful to the marine environment?

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This guideline provides information for shippers about their obligation to classify solid bulk cargo as harmful or not harmful to the marine environment from 31 March 2021. A shipper is any person who offers goods to be transported by sea, and includes any person who arranges for the transport of goods by sea on behalf of any other person.

If solid bulk cargo that you are going to ship meets any of the criteria below you must declare the cargo as harmful to the marine environment. The residues of these types of substances listed below are considered harmful to the marine environment. Make this declaration on the dangerous goods transport document, unless there is a more appropriate place to make the declaration.

Cargo residues of solid bulk cargoes are considered to be harmful to the marine environment (HME) if they meet any of the following criteria:<sup>1</sup>

1. Acute Aquatic Toxicity Category 1; and/or
2. Chronic Aquatic Toxicity Category 1 or 2; and/or
3. Carcinogenicity<sup>2</sup> Category 1A or 1B combined with not being rapidly degradable and having high bioaccumulation; and/or
4. Mutagenicity<sup>2</sup> Category 1A or 1B combined with not being rapidly degradable and having high bioaccumulation; and/or
5. Reproductive Toxicity<sup>2</sup> Category 1A or 1B combined with not being rapidly degradable and having high bioaccumulation; and/or
6. Specific Target Organ Toxicity Repeated Exposure<sup>2</sup> Category 1 combined with not being rapidly degradable and having high bioaccumulation; and/or

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<sup>1</sup> The criteria are based on UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). For specific products (e.g. metals and inorganic metal compounds) guidance available in UN GHS, annexes 9 and 10 is essential for proper interpretation of the criteria and classification and should be followed.

<sup>2</sup> Products that are classified for Carcinogenicity, Mutagenicity, Reproductive Toxicity or Specific Target Organ Toxicity Repeated Exposure for oral and dermal hazards or without specification of the exposure route in the hazard statement.

## Is your solid bulk cargo harmful to the marine environment? (continued)

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7. Solid bulk cargoes containing or consisting of synthetic polymers, rubber, plastics, or plastic feedstock pellets (this includes materials that are shredded, milled, chopped or macerated or similar materials).

### **Disclaimer**

These guidelines provide information and explanations about the requirements set out in the maritime rules, but are not a substitute for the rules themselves, which are the law. These guidelines refer to provisions in the Maritime Rules Part 24A, Carriage of Cargoes -Dangerous Goods and Maritime Rules Part 24C Carriage of Cargoes – Specific Cargoes.