

RCS Register

September 2004 *a semi-monthly publication*

Volume 5 Issue 5

IMO Security Compliance Shows Continued Improvement

Both ship and port facilities are now approaching complete compliance with the new IMO security measures developed to protect international shipping from the threat of terrorism. The measures came into effect on July 1, 2004.

According to figures from the reporting governments, 89.5% of over 9000 declared port facilities now have their Port Facility Security Plans (PFSPs) approved. This is a significant improvement from the 69%, which was reported on the July 1st entry-into-force date.

Information from industry sources on International Ship Security Certificates (ISSCs) issued for ships which have to comply with the new regulatory regime shows over 90% compliance. This figure is also a significant improvement over the 86% of ships compliant re-

ported on July 1st 2004.

The far-reaching International Maritime security measures now in force were developed and adopted by IMO in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States. The security measures, which include the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code), are in the form of amendments to the 1974 Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention and are aimed at enhancing maritime security on board ships and at ship/port interface areas. They were adopted by a Conference on Maritime Security in December 2002 and represent the first ever internationally agreed regulatory framework addressing the crucial issue of maritime security.

However, compliance is not improving worldwide. Statistics show that Africa has just

IMO Compliance con't. on Page 3

Air Eligibility Marking Delayed

This HAZMAT "marking" is required on all shipments, including Consumer Commodity and Limited Quantity shipments as of January 1, 2004. However, we received word from IATA, a few weeks ago, that the IATA / ICAO / DOT "Air Eligibility" marking will be delayed in its implementation.



It is not and will not be required for Consumer Commodity and Diagnostic Specimens. It is no longer mandatory for ANY package by IATA / ICAO as of January 1, 2004 (However this recent update is NOT reflected in the 2004 DGR -- it still shows it as mandatory).

RCS suggests that you plan to use it anyway, as many airlines will not be aware of ICAO's delay in the rollout of the Air Eligibility Marking. At the very least, check with your carriers.

Inside this issue...

Did You Know?

Page 3

Articles...

IMO Compliance Improvement
Air Eligibility Markings
ISO Developments
Hurricane Information

Page 1
Page 1
Page 2
Page 2

DOT
OSHA

Page 4
Page 5



ISO Developments

The Development of Social Responsibility

ISO, the International Organization of Standardization, is stated to be in development of an International Standard for social responsibility. The widely accepted ISO program, which includes the ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 14000 series, is set to produce a document which is not intended for certification. However, the program will be written to be understandable and usable by non-ISO specialists.

ISO's announcement, which was made from a decision, which was taken at a senior ISO management meeting, held in the later part of June

would implement a realm of standardization which is based upon subjective judgments.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development interprets the term Social Responsibility (SR) as to address an organization's contribution to the balanced advancement of economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

The link between social responsibility and standardization is that both are closely related to society's expectations and how to meet society's expectations. While a

company may adopt standards, which are voluntary rules, regulations are rules, which must be followed.

While developing the social responsibility standard, emphasis has been to increase value and not to replace any existing governmental agreements relevant to social responsibility, such as the United Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

According to a press release following ISO's international conference on social responsibility (SR) on 21-22 June 2004 in Stockholm, ISO's Vice-President of Technical Man-
ISO con't. on page 4



Hurricanes: Did you Know?

As these past few months have brought tremendous damage to Florida, there are many hurricane facts, which many people are unaware of.

When is Hurricane Season?: Hurricane season typically runs from June 1 through November 30. However, there have been hurricanes reported in the off-season.

What is a hurricane? A storm becomes a tropical storm when its wind reached 39 mph. A hurricane is the name for a

tropical cyclone with sustained winds of 74 miles per hour (65 knots) or greater in the North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and in the eastern North Pacific Ocean. This same tropical cyclone is known as a typhoon in the western Pacific and a cyclone in the Indian Ocean. There are five (5) categories of tropical storms. Category One (1) hurricanes cause minimal damage with winds between 74-95mph and storm surges of 4 to 5 feet. Category Five (5) hurricanes cause catastrophic

damage with winds greater than 155mph and storm surges greater than 18 feet.

How are hurricanes named? Storms are named when a tropical storm reaches 39 mph. A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when winds reach 74 mph. Weather forecasters began naming tropical storms and hurricanes to ease the communication flow between the weather forecasters and the general public. The trend of naming hurricanes after hu-

Did You Know?

Los Angeles to Pay \$2 Billion for Sewage Spills

The U.S. EPA, the Department of Justice, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and numerous local groups have reached a Two (2) Billion dollar settlement with the city of Los Angeles, California over years of sewage spills. Under the terms of this settlement, the city will have to rebuild 488 miles of sewer lines. The city is required to clean approximately 2,800 miles of sewers annually. The city will also be required to develop plans to control restaurant grease discharges, increase the sewage system's capacity, and plan for future expansion.

The United States and the regional board are settling their civil penalty claims against the city for \$1.6 million, which they will share equally. Los Angeles is ordered to pay \$800,000 to the U.S. Treasury. The regional board is directing its

\$800,000 to local environmental improvement projects that the city will perform.

This settlement is an effort to address sewage spills and odors in the city of Los Angeles. The city of Los Angeles is required to perform more maintenance practices and advanced planning to prevent sewers from spilling and leaking.

In total, the city of Los Angeles will perform \$8.5 million in environmental projects. These projects are in addition to the work required to improve its sewer system. The environmental improvement projects required under this agreement include projects throughout the city to restore streams and wetlands and to capture and treat polluted storm water flows.

IMO Compliance con't. from page 1

over half of the thirty (30) countries subject to the code in compliance with port security measures. Countries in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have also been slow to implement the measures.

In January 2002, IMO inaugurated a US \$2.5 million Global Program on Maritime and Port Security. Worldwide activities under this program have included seminars and workshops at regional and national level and more than 3,200 people have so far been trained throughout the developing regions.

Hurricane con't from pg. 2

The lists are recycled every six years and names are retired after a hurricane has been rested.

How long do hurricanes last?

The average life span of a hurricane is usually around ten (10) days, however the longest hurricane ever recorded lasted for thirty-one (31) days. That hurricane was Hurricane John in 1994.

For more information, please visit www.fema.gov.

Remember to Register!!!

If you transport hazardous materials or waste, you must register with RSPA by July 1st for the previous calendar year (January 1 through December 31). If you are submitting your registration by mail, RSPA recommends sending in your registration at least four (4) weeks in advance of the date you will need the registration certificate, to allow it to be processed and mailed back to you in time.

Department of Transportation

Review New Ways to Improve Motor Carrier Safety; Agency Asking for Public Comment

On Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced plans to conduct a comprehensive review of how the agency can best monitor and assess the safety of the nation's motor carriers and ensure their compliance with federal regulations. August 20th, 2004, the U.S. Department of

The review project, known as the Comprehensive Safety Analysis 2010 initiative (CSA-2010) will begin in September and will take several years. It will begin with a series of public listening sessions, in which the FMCSA will ask for views on safety management policies for truck and bus operations from motor carriers, insurance and safety advocacy groups, traffic enforcement professionals.

"Today we are making great strides in improving motor carrier safety," said FMCSA Administrator Annette M. Sandberg. "Now is the time to look at every aspect of our safety program – how we use it, how we can improve it, and how we can add to it – so we can be ready for the future."

The dates and locations of the sessions are as follows:

Sept. 21, Doubletree Hotel, Mission Valley, San Diego;

Sept. 28, Sheraton Atlanta, Atlanta;

Oct. 5, Hampton Inn & Suites Dallas/Mesquite, Mesquite, TX;

Oct. 12, Wyndham Chicago, Chicago;

Oct. 19, Fairview Park Marriott, Falls Church, VA;

Oct. 26, Sheraton Springfield, Springfield, MA.

FMCA has initiated this review because in the next twenty (20) years, freight volume will likely increase by 50 percent from current levels. The current on-site inspections and reviews of higher risk carriers conducted by the FMCSA may not continue to be effective at these increased levels.

FMCSA's announcement is available on the Internet at

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>. It also can be viewed in the DOT Docket Management System, <http://dms.dot.gov> by searching for docket number FMCSA-2004-18898.



ISO con't. from page 2

agement, Ms. Ziva Patir stated that "Social responsibility is the need of future generations and fits with the strategy of ISO to develop standards that are market relevant, globally relevant and that help to create a sustainable world."

Important Date:

***Election Day is
Tuesday, November 2,
2004***



**RCS Holiday Hours
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

OSHA SITES CARPET DISTRIBUTOR

Following an August 3, 2004 inspection, OSHA issued proposed penalties totaling up to \$45,900 in fines to Empire Home Service, a carpet distributor in Stoughton, Massachusetts. The penalties resulted, due to a failure, by the carpet distributor, to safeguard employees against falling materials, crushing hazards, and unsafe use of forklifts.

Empire Home Service was cited for eleven (11) serious violations of OSHA safety standards. Employees of the carpet distributor complained to the Federal Agency following an incident that involved several rugs, weighing as much as 1500 pounds, which fell on an unoccupied forklift when a twenty (20) foot high storage rack collapsed. According to OSHA, a serious violation is defined as, *a condition for which there is a substantial possibility that death or serious physical harm can result to an employee from a hazard about*

which the employer knew or should have known.

OSHA noted that employees, who retrieved rugs and carpets from high rack storage areas, faced falling hazards. In addition, Workers were exposed to potential crushing hazards due to unstable stacks of carpets and rugs.

The inspection of Empire Home Service also identified several hazards involving forklift operation. Some operators did not participate in a forklift-training course and Empire Home Service failed to provide required refresher training to forklift operators involved in an accident. Operators were observed not wearing seatbelts. Forklifts in use were noted as modified or altered without the manufacturer's approval. Data plates on many of the forklifts were missing or illegible. Forklifts were also being used to improperly raise loads

heavier than they were capable of lifting safely. Operators were not performing inspections of the forklifts prior to use.

Brenda Gordon, OSHA's area director for southeastern Massachusetts said, "To eliminate these hazards and prevent them from happening again, employees need to be trained and given properly maintained equipment, and the company has to establish and enforce work rules."

In 2003, OSHA conducted almost 40,000 inspections, and more than 50% of these inspections focused on high-hazard industries. OSHA is designed to protect the safety and health of America's workers. OSHA works to achieve this by setting and enforcing standards, providing training, providing outreach and education, establishing partnerships, and encouraging continual improvement in the workplace.



CONTACT RCS, INC.

For Your One-Stop-Shop For ALL Your Regulatory Needs

Our expert technical staff is available to assist with permitting, required plans and reporting, facility compliance, training, inventory evaluation, MSDS writing and evaluation, and so much more. Please visit our website or contact one of our friendly Client Assurance associates today to find out how we can help YOU!

Toll Free: 877.377.4243 - www.4rcs.com - info@4rcs.com