



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
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M P A
SINGAPORE

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Applicable to: Shipowners, ship managers, operators, agents and masters of Singapore-registered ships

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF PLASTIC PELLETS BY SEA IN FREIGHT CONTAINERS

This circular brings to the attention of the shipping community the recommendations for the carriage of plastic pellets by sea in freight containers (**Annex A**), approved by the International Maritime Organization's Marine Environment Protection Committee at its eighty-first session (MEPC 81), through Circular MEPC.1/Circ.909. The shipping community is encouraged to adopt the recommendations while taking additional care and appropriate action during the maritime transport of plastic pellets in packaged form.

2. The recommendations are as follow:

I. PACKAGING

Plastic pellets must be packaged in high-quality materials that can endure the typical shocks and pressures experienced during transportation. The packaging should be designed and sealed to prevent any loss of contents due to vibrations or acceleration forces that may occur under standard transport conditions.

II. IDENTIFICATION

Transport information should clearly indicate, in addition to the cargo details mandated by the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Regulation VI/2, any freight containers that hold plastic pellets. The shipper should also complement the cargo information with a special stowage request as per the stowage recommendations.

III. STOWAGE

Freight containers with plastic pellets should be stowed and secured properly to reduce risks to the marine environment while ensuring the safety of the ship and its crew. Specifically, these containers should be stowed:

- a) under deck wherever reasonably practical; or
- b) inboard in sheltered areas of exposed decks.

3. The above recommendations are the first step in a two-stage approach to reduce the environmental risks associated with the carriage of plastic pellets in packaged form by sea, pending the MEPC's consideration of future mandatory measures for the carriage of plastic pellets in freight containers.

4. The shipping community is encouraged to implement the recommendations in Circular MEPC.1/Circ.909, and provide feedback on the experience gained during the implementation of these recommendations to MPA's Shipping Division via email at shipping@mpa.gov.sg.

5. Do subscribe to our Telegram channel – t.me/MPASingapore to receive the latest updates.



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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF PLASTIC PELLETS* BY SEA IN FREIGHT CONTAINERS

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its eighty-first session (18 to 22 March 2024), approved the following recommendations for the carriage of plastic pellets by sea in freight containers, as the first step in a two-stage approach aimed at reducing the environmental risks associated with the carriage of plastic pellets in packaged form by sea, pending the Committee's consideration of future mandatory measures for the carriage of plastic pellets in freight containers:

- .1 Plastic pellets should be packed in good quality packaging which should be strong enough to withstand the shocks and loadings normally encountered during transport. Packaging should be constructed and closed so as to prevent any loss of contents which may be caused under normal conditions of transport, by vibration or acceleration forces.
- .2 Transport information should clearly identify, as an addition in the cargo information required by SOLAS regulation VI/2, those freight containers containing plastic pellets. In addition, the shipper should supplement the cargo information with a special stowage request requiring stowage as outlined in paragraph 1.3 below.
- .3 Freight containers containing plastic pellets should be properly stowed and secured so as to minimize the hazards to the marine environment without impairing the safety of the ship and persons on board. Specifically, freight containers containing plastic pellets should be stowed:
 - .1 under deck wherever reasonably practicable; or
 - .2 inboard in sheltered areas of exposed decks.

2 Member States are invited to use these recommendations and bring them to the attention of shippers, manufacturers, terminal operators, shipowners, ship operators, charterers, shipmasters and all other parties concerned, requesting that additional care and appropriate action be taken during maritime transport of plastic pellets in packaged form.

* *Plastic pellets* means a mass of pre-formed moulding material, having relatively uniform dimensions, used as feedstock in plastic product manufacturing operations. Plastic pellets are transported in various forms, including flakes, granules and powders, and can be referred to as resin or nurdles.