

A reminder of the documentary requirements of The International Maritime Dangerous Code.

16th March 2009

Dear Customer,

NYK would like to remind shippers of the documentary requirements of The International Maritime Dangerous Code. Both the dangerous goods transport document and the container packing certificate are legal requirements and we are unable to ship dangerous goods containers without signed copies of these documents. To ensure shipment and to avoid delay and/or rejection of your containers please ensure that your Dangerous Goods Documentation is correct.

Full details of the requirements can be found in Chapter 5.4 DOCUMENTATION of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code. We would like to remind you that it is your responsibility as shippers to ensure that containers for which you are responsible are correctly packed according to the regulations and that the consignments therein are correctly packed labelled and described.

There are two documentary requirements, as summarised below:-

1. (IMDG CODE 5.4.1.1) For every Dangerous Goods consignment the consignor who offers dangerous goods for transport shall describe the dangerous goods on a transport document and provide additional information and documentation as specified in the Code. The dangerous goods transport document shall include a certification or declaration that the consignment is acceptable for transport and that the goods are properly packaged, marked and labelled, and in proper condition for transport in accordance with the applicable regulations. The text for this certification is:

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"I hereby declare that the contents of this consignment are fully and accurately described above by the Proper Shipping Name, and are classified, packaged, marked and labelled/placarded, and are in all respects in proper condition for transport according to applicable international and national government regulations."

The certification shall be signed and dated by the consignor. Facsimile signatures are acceptable where applicable laws and regulations recognize the legal validity of facsimile signatures. (IMDG CODE 5.4.1.6.1)

2. (IMDG CODE 5.4.2.1) When dangerous goods are packed or loaded into any container [see definition of "freight container" in 1.2.1] or vehicle, those responsible for packing the container or vehicle shall provide a "container/vehicle packing certificate" specifying the container/vehicle identification number(s) and certifying that the operation has been carried out in accordance with the following conditions:

1. The container/vehicle was clean, dry and apparently fit to receive the goods;
2. Packages which need to be segregated in accordance with applicable segregation requirements have not been packed together onto or in the container/vehicle (unless approved by the competent authority concerned in accordance with 7.2.2.3);
3. All packages have been externally inspected for damage, and only sound packages have been loaded;
4. Drums have been stowed in an upright position, unless otherwise authorized by the competent authority, and all goods have been properly loaded and, where necessary, adequately braced with securing material to suit the mode(s) [see IMO/ILO/UN ECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo Transport Units] of transport for the intended journey;
5. Goods loaded in bulk have been evenly distributed within the container/vehicle;
6. For consignments including goods of class 1 other than division 1.4, the container/vehicle is structurally serviceable in accordance with 7.4.6;
7. The container/vehicle and packages are properly marked, labelled and placarded, as appropriate;
8. When solid carbon dioxide (CO₂-dry ice) is used for cooling purposes, the container/vehicle is externally marked or labelled in a conspicuous place, such as,

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at the door end, with the words: "DANGEROUS CO2 (DRY ICE) INSIDE. VENTILATE THOROUGHLY BEFORE ENTERING"; and

9. A dangerous goods transport document, as indicated in 5.4.1, has been received for each dangerous goods consignment loaded in the container/vehicle.

NOTE: The container/vehicle packing certificate is not required for portable tanks.

The information required in the dangerous goods transport document and the container/vehicle packing certificate may be incorporated into a single document; if not, these documents shall be attached one to the other. If the information is incorporated into a single document, the document shall include a signed declaration such as "It is declared that the packing of the goods into the container/vehicle has been carried out in accordance with the applicable provisions". This declaration shall be dated and the person signing this declaration shall be identified on the document. (IMDG CODE 5.4.2.2)

WHO SHOULD SIGN THE CONTAINER PACKING CERTIFICATE?

Only the person directly controlling the packing of the container is in position to certify that everything is in order. Therefore only that person can complete and sign a packing certificate.

Consignors can only sign container packing certificates if they also pack the shipping container on their own premises, otherwise it falls to the consolidator/container packer to do so. In all cases the container packing certificate and the shippers dangerous goods transport document should be signed and have the name, status, company and date of signature.

As a provider of safe and dependable transportation services, NYK must insist upon your compliance with the legal requirements, for the benefit of all our customers.

Yours faithfully,

European Customer Services
Liner Division

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