

Meeting: 26th SafeSeaNet Group Meeting

Place and date: Lisbon, 19 October 2016

Agenda item: Central Hazmat Database - Progress report

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Submitted by EMSA

Summary	Presents the progress in the development of the Central Hazmat Database
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 3.
Related documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Directive 2002/59/EC on vessel traffic, monitoring and information services, as amended b. Directive 2010/65/EU on reporting formalities c. HLSG 12

1. Background

At its 12th meeting in December 2014, the High Level Steering Group approved the requirements for the development of a Central Hazmat Database (CHD). It was agreed that the CHD should be hosted centrally by EMSA, but that Member States (MSs) should have the possibility to download the database in their hosting environments. The main objectives of this database are to:

- improve the data quality of HAZMAT notifications;
- minimise the administrative burden for the ship reporting parties when submitting HAZMAT information to a national single window (NSW), and;
- support MS emergency services in providing effective response to maritime incidents involving ships carrying dangerous or polluting goods.

2. Current Status

EMSA has developed the database, and it is now available to all SafeSeaNet users, as well as industry stakeholders and the general public (the latter two are referred to as guest users) via the EMSA Maritime Application Portal (MAP).

The CHD contains a comprehensive list of all Hazmat data that has to be notified in accordance with the VTMS and RFD Directives, and which are included in the International Maritime Organisation convention and codes. The use of the CHD has the advantage that data is harmonised and avoids inconsistencies. It is intended to support MS and industry users during the reporting process by assisting them in identifying the correct HAZMAT data.

The basic functionalities associated with CHD access through the MAP include:

- viewing and searching for details of dangerous and polluting goods, using either a general textual search or a step-by-step approach;

- filtering and managing the resulting list and details;
- exporting the results of searches to different file formats;
- downloading the full content of the CHD relevant to SafeSeaNet reporting;
- viewing the history of changes to the dangerous and polluting goods;
- receiving e-mail notifications advising of changes to the content of the database, and;
- accessing the information held in the Marine Chemical Information Sheets (MAR-CIS) database which is being developed by EMSA, and includes information on the hazards and risks associated with chemical products during emergency response situations.

Guest users can export the results of searches and download the CHD content in PDF format, but they do not have access to MAR-CIS information.

The application is also expected to be available to SafeSeaNet users via a system-to-system interface by the end of 2016. This will allow users to request details of dangerous or polluting goods, or to download the full content of the database, as well as to receive notifications of changes to the database.

3. Actions required

MSs are invited to take note of the above information, and to make use of the Central Hazmat Database in order to improve the reporting of dangerous or polluting goods information in SafeSeaNet.