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**GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION FOR MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS WHEN
CARRYING OIL OR OIL FUEL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SOLAS REGULATION VI/5-1**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-third session, conscious of the need to have mandatory provisions for material safety data sheets in the interest of those working on board ships to have clear, concise and accurate information on the safety and health effects of substances carried on board, adopted new SOLAS regulation VI/5-1 by resolution MSC.239(83).

2 The Committee, at its eighty-sixth session, recognizing the fact that the provisions of new SOLAS regulation VI/5-1, which are due to enter into force on 1 July 2009, could benefit from explanation in order to ensure improved understanding and uniform compliance, agreed to provide guidance to those associated with the carriage and handling of oil and oil fuel, as provided in the following paragraph.

3 The provisions of SOLAS regulation VI/5-1 stand to indicate that, notwithstanding the provisions of SOLAS regulation VI/1, ships carrying oil or oil fuel, as defined in regulation 1 of Annex I to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, shall be provided with Material Safety Data Sheets, based on the recommendations developed by the Organization¹, prior to the loading of such oil as cargo in bulk or bunkering of oil fuel.

4 In order to confirm the above explanation, the Committee, at its eighty-sixth session, adopted amendments to SOLAS regulation VI/5-1 by resolution MSC.282(86).

5 Member Governments and entities associated with the carriage and handling of oil as cargoes in bulk and oil fuels, as per the provisions of SOLAS regulation VI/5-1, are invited to take note of the above guidance.

¹ Refer to the Recommendations for Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for MARPOL Annex I oil cargo and oil fuel, adopted by the Organization by resolution MSC.286(86), as may be amended.