



**PLANNING OF GESAMP ACTIVITIES:
EVALUATION OF THE HAZARDS OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES
CARRIED BY SHIPS**

Report of the Chairman of Working Group 1

Introduction

1 Working Group 1 (EHS, Environmental Hazard of Substances carried by ships) did not meet during this GESAMP intersessional period; the 49th meeting of WG 1 was delayed to fit in with other meetings and will now be held from the 25 to 29 June, 2012 at IMO Headquarters in London.

2 The main agenda item as always will be the evaluation of the hazards of liquid substances carried in bulk by sea, i.e. pumped on and off ships, to and from fixed tanks on board - not to be confused with packaged goods in ISO containers etc. The hazard profiles of over 850 bulk liquid substances are contained in the composite list¹, published after each meeting as an IMO circular. All of these hazard profiles have been checked and updated for accuracy and completeness at least twice in the last ten years and this is an ongoing process.

3 Each year some 10 to 20 new substances are proposed by manufacturers and/or shippers for evaluation of their hazards by WG 1. In addition, WG 1 deals with a sizeable correspondence with manufacturers and industry trade associations on the current hazard profiles. This may involve simple requests for clarification or requests to discuss a particular hazard profile with regard to data interpretation with a view to its revision. New data may also be presented.

4 The methodology used by WG 1 is contained in Reports & Studies 64 (2002), entitled the *Revised GESAMP Hazard Evaluation Procedure*. The working group is currently updating this methodology and the draft text of a second edition will be discussed at its 49th session later this year. While intended to be primarily editorial, some issues such as Column D3 of the hazard profile (long term health effects) may need more substantive change to bring them into line with developments in the Globally Harmonized System (GHS, UN chemical hazard classification). Most notably carcinogenicity (C), target organ systemic toxicity (T) and sensitization (S) need realigning. Where environmental hazards are concerned, the use of chronic aquatic toxicity will again be looked at and where possible brought further into line with the GHS.

5 One recent issue is the interpretation of the criterion "ready" (bio-)degradability under Column A2 where inorganic substances in particular are concerned. Finally, the acute inhalation toxicity extrapolation method developed and implemented by the group and published in 2011 in the scientific literature² will also be fully described in the 2nd edition of GESAMP Reports and Studies No. 64.

¹ <http://www.imo.org/OurWork/Environment/PollutionPrevention/ChemicalPollution/Documents/GESAMP-EHSCompositelistofhazardprofiles.pdf>

² Höfer, T. D. James, T. Syversen and T. Bowmer (2011). Estimation of the acute inhalation hazards of chemicals based on route-to-route and local endpoint extrapolation – experience from bulk maritime transport, ATLA 39, 541-556.

6 It is expected that the first draft of the 2nd edition will be completed in time for the 49th session of WG 1 in 2012; the final report being submitted to GESAMP for peer review in the next intersessional period, i.e. before GESAMP 40 in 2013.

Action requested of GESAMP

7 GESAMP is invited to note the above activities of WG 1 for which it has already given approval at GESAMP 38 in 2011.
