Sjøfartsdirektoratet
Norwegian Maritime Authority

Circular - Series R

Number: **RSR 01-2025**

Date: 17 January 2025

Case number: 2024/73178

Regulation concerning amendments to the Regulations on the carriage of cargoes on Norwegian ships and barges due to amendments to the IMSBC Code. Implementation of resolution MSC.539(107) for ships and barges engaged on domestic voyages.

The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has adopted amendments to the Regulations of 1 July 2014 No. 945 on the carriage of cargoes on Norwegian ships and barges. The Regulations enter into force on 20 January 2025.

About the amended Regulations

The Regulations on the carriage of cargoes on Norwegian ships and barges incorporate the IMSBC Code into Norwegian legislation. Through section 2 second paragraph of the amending Regulations, IMO Resolution MSC.539(107), which contains revisions to the IMSBC Code, is implemented for cargo ships and barges engaged on domestic voyages. These changes primarily affect shipping companies and operators involved in the carriage of solid bulk cargoes.

The implementation of Resolution MSC.539(107) for cargo ships and barges engaged on domestic voyages triggered a notification obligation under section 4 of the EEA Hearing Act. The standstill period for consultation under the EEA Hearing Act expired on 7 January 2025 without comments.

For further details on the revised IMSBC Code, reference is made to the NMA's Circular RSR 12-2024.

Administrative and financial implications

The amendments are expected to improve safety in connection with the carriage of solid bulk cargoes on board ships and reduce the potential for disputes between owners, shippers and charterers. The amendments may necessitate modifications and upgrades required for the carriage of certain solid bulk cargoes on ships. The NMA assumes that the amendments to the IMSBC Code have been negotiated within the IMO, where the interests of various parties have been considered. The amendments are therefore deemed cost-effective and necessary to safeguard health, environment and safety.

Ships engaged on domestic voyages that are affected by the amendments to the IMSBC Code should contact the NMA to determine whether additional certification is required.

Yours faithfully,

Alf Tore Sørheim
Acting Director General of Shipping and Navigation

Linda Bruås
Head of Department
Legislation and International Relations

EQS: 5675

Attachments:

• Regulation concerning amendments to the Regulations on the carriage of cargoes on Norwegian ships and barges
• Resolution MSC.539(107).