



IF YOU MOVE DANGEROUS GOODS BY SEA.....

The IMDG Code has been through some major changes in the last few years. One development that had gone largely unnoticed until recently however, has been the much clearer requirements for training for all those involved in the transport chain. As is often the case, take up of training has been slower than the authorities would like. It seems though that the requirement is now being taken much more seriously. A number of recent incidents have illustrated this, including one involving one of Specialist's own customers.

The requirement for training of all those involved in the transport chain has long been in the IMDG, albeit not so specifically. In the case of Specialist's customer, it was a case of proving they had carried out appropriate training before their consignments were allowed through a port. Had they not carried out this training, the authorities made it clear the load would have at very least been severely delayed or even halted!

It is worth looking at what the wording of the requirements are. In the IMDG it states:

"Shore based personnel engaged in the transport of dangerous goods intended to be transported by sea shall be trained in the contents of dangerous goods provision commensurate with their responsibilities."

This means those who classify, identify, pack, mark, label, placard, produce documents for, load, unload or transport dangerous goods need familiarisation and function specific training. Whilst no formal "IMDG qualification" exists, the Code itself is quite specific about what type of training needs to be done. Courses that cover the areas laid down in the Code will clearly meet the requirement to demonstrate "appropriate" training.

Specialist has recently added two courses to its New Year programme, lasting a day each, on the IMDG code. These would be suitable for those requiring evidence of IMDG awareness training. They are taking place on Monday 16th January and Wednesday 1st February 2012. Give us a call for details.

