



# TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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## Subject : Recommendations for the carriage of plastic pellets by sea in freight containers from IMO



### 1. Background

(1) In May 2021, a fire on the ship near the waters of Sri Lanka resulted in the release of 11,000 tons of plastic pellets into the ocean. This incident highlighted the need for clear guidelines and requirements for the shipping, handling, and labeling of containers transporting plastic pellets, leading to ongoing discussions at the IMO

(2) At the recent 81st session of the MEPC, the guideline for Recommendations for the carriage of plastic pellets' by sea in freight containers (MEPC.1/Circ.909) was approved. This guideline serves as a short-term measure to reduce the environmental risks associated with the marine transport of packaged plastic pellets, prior to the development of mandatory requirements.

(3) Accordingly, this technical information was issued to share with the relevant stakeholders such as shipowners, manufacturers and surveyors for reference in their respective tasks.

## 2. Requirements and information(s)

(1) Carriage requirements in accordance with MEPC.1/Circ.909

1) Plastic pellets should be packed in good quality packaging which should be strong enough to withstand the shocks and loadings normally encountered during transport. Packaging should be constructed and closed so as to prevent any loss of contents which may be caused under normal conditions of transport, by vibration or acceleration forces.

2) Transport information should clearly identify, as an addition in the cargo information required by SOLAS regulation VI/2, those freight containers containing plastic pellets. In addition, the shipper should supplement the cargo information with a special stowage request requiring stowage as outlined in paragraph 3) below.

3) Freight containers containing plastic pellets should be properly stowed and secured so as to minimize the hazards to the marine environment without impairing the safety of the ship and persons on board. Specifically, freight containers containing plastic pellets should be stowed:

- (a) under deck wherever reasonably practicable; or
- (b) inboard in sheltered areas of exposed decks.

## 2. Measures

(1) Please note that MEPC.1/Circ.909 is a recommendation and not mandatory, however, some port authorities may enforce compliance with its requirements.

(2) So far, no port authorities have been identified as enforcing these guidelines. However, if necessary, please take appropriate actions based on this technical information and instruction from the interested port authorities.

If you have any questions regarding this technical information, please contact Convention & Legislation Service Team([convention@krs.co.kr](mailto:convention@krs.co.kr))

## Attachment

MEPC.1/Circ.909 : Recommendations for the Carriage of plastic pellets' by sea in freight container.

Distributions : KR surveyors, Ship owners, Manufacturers, Other relevant parties

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