GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF PORTS & SHIPPING

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE No. 006 of 2026

PROMULGATION OF THE IMDG CODE AND THE IMSBC CODE AND THE AMENDMENTS THERETO

File No. 1(2)/2026-CESS

Karachi, the 17th August 2026

1. Purpose

This Notice is issued for the information and guidance of shipowners, ship managers, masters, officers, shippers, packers, consignors, freight forwarders, terminal operators, Port Authorities, Recognized Organizations, surveyors of the Directorate General Port and Shipping Wing (DGPS), Mercantile Marine Department and all others concerned. It sets out the mandatory international instruments governing the carriage of dangerous goods in packaged form and the carriage of solid bulk cargoes, records every amendment adopted to those instruments together with the dates on which each amendment took effect, and identifies the editions currently applicable in Pakistan.

2. Legal basis

2.1 The International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code is mandatory under Chapter VII of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended (SOLAS). The International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code is mandatory under Chapters VI and VII of that Convention. Pakistan is a Contracting Government to SOLAS.

2.2 Amendments to both Codes are adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization and take effect under the tacit acceptance procedure of Article VIII(b) of SOLAS. An amendment is deemed to have been accepted on the date specified in the adopting resolution unless, before that date, objections are received from the number of Contracting Governments prescribed by Article VIII(b)(vi), and enters into force six months thereafter. Pakistan has not notified any objection in respect of any amendment listed in this Notice.

2.3 Rule 4 of the Pakistan Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Hazardous and Dangerous Substances by Ships) Rules, 2009 (S.R.O. 1(I)/2009 dated 30 July 2009), made under sections 382, 575 and 609 of the Pakistan Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 2001, requires all ships intending to transit through the territorial sea or the exclusive economic zone of Pakistan to comply with applicable international conventions, codes, rules, regulations and standards with respect to labelling, packaging, stowage and carriage of hazardous and dangerous materials carried on board.

2.4 **This Notice is declaratory in nature.** It identifies the international instruments and amendments falling within the obligation already imposed by rule 4 of the said Rules and by Pakistan's obligations as a Contracting Government to SOLAS. It does not create any new obligation, and is issued without prejudice to the legislative measures under preparation by the Administration.

3. General applicability

Each amendment listed in this Notice applies in Pakistan from its entry-into-force date shown in the tables below. Where a voluntary application date is shown, the Administration accepts compliance with the

amended text from that date, in whole or in part, in advance of the mandatory date. Ships, shippers and terminal operators shall comply with the edition of the Code applicable on the date of the operation concerned.

4. Table A — IMDG Code: record of amendments

The IMDG Code was made mandatory under SOLAS Chapter VII with effect from 1 January 2004. Amendments adopted to date are as follows:

Amendment	Resolution	Adopted	Deemed accepted	Entry into force	Voluntary application from
31-02	MSC.122(75)	24 May 2002	1 Jul 2003	1 Jan 2004	1 Jan 2003
32-04	MSC.157(78)	20 May 2004	1 Jul 2005	1 Jan 2006	1 Jan 2005
33-06	MSC.205(81)	18 May 2006	1 Jul 2007	1 Jan 2008	1 Jan 2007
34-08	MSC.262(84)	16 May 2008	1 Jul 2009	1 Jan 2010	1 Jan 2009
35-10	MSC.294(87)	21 May 2010	1 Jul 2011	1 Jan 2012	1 Jan 2011
36-12	MSC.328(90)	26 May 2012	1 Jul 2013	1 Jan 2014	1 Jan 2013
37-14	MSC.372(93)	22 May 2014	1 Jul 2015	1 Jan 2016	1 Jan 2015
38-16	MSC.406(96)	13 May 2016	1 Jul 2017	1 Jan 2018	1 Jan 2017
39-18	MSC.442(99)	24 May 2018	1 Jul 2019	1 Jan 2020	1 Jan 2019
40-20	MSC.477(102)	11 Nov 2020	1 Dec 2021	1 Jun 2022	1 Jan 2021
41-22	MSC.501(105)	28 Apr 2022	1 Jul 2023	1 Jan 2024	1 Jan 2023
42-24	MSC.556(108)	23 May 2024	1 Jul 2025	1 Jan 2026	1 Jan 2025
43-26	MSC.___(111)	May 2026	1 Jul 2027	1 Jan 2028	1 Jan 2027

5. Table B — IMSBC Code: record of amendments

The IMSBC Code was adopted by resolution MSC.268(85) and made mandatory under SOLAS with effect from 1 January 2011. Amendments adopted to date are as follows:

Amendment	Resolution	Adopted	Deemed accepted	Entry into force	Voluntary application from
Code (base)	MSC.268(85)	4 Dec 2008	1 Jul 2010	1 Jan 2011	—
01-11	MSC.318(89)	20 May 2011	1 Jul 2012	1 Jan 2013	1 Jan 2012
02-13	MSC.354(92)	21 Jun 2013	1 Jul 2014	1 Jan 2015	1 Jan 2014
03-15	MSC.393(95)	11 Jun 2015	1 Jul 2016	1 Jan 2017	1 Jan 2016
04-17	MSC.426(98)	15 Jun 2017	1 Jul 2018	1 Jan 2019	1 Jan 2018
05-19	MSC.462(101)	13 Jun 2019	1 Jul 2020	1 Jan 2021	1 Jan 2020
06-21	MSC.500(105)	28 Apr 2022	1 Jun 2023	1 Dec 2023	1 Jan 2023
07-23	MSC.539(107)	16 Jun 2023	1 Jul 2024	1 Jan 2025	1 Jan 2024
08-25	MSC.575(110)	26 Jun 2025	1 Jul 2026	1 Jan 2027	1 Jan 2026

6. Editions currently applicable in Pakistan

Code	Edition mandatory in Pakistan	Next edition / status
IMDG Code	Amendment 42-24 (2024 Edition), mandatory from 1 January 2026	Amendment 43-26 — voluntary from 1 January 2027; mandatory 1 January 2028

Code	Edition mandatory in Pakistan	Next edition / status
IMSBC Code	Amendment 07-23 (2023 Edition), mandatory from 1 January 2025	Amendment 08-25 — voluntary from 1 January 2026; mandatory 1 January 2027

7. Particular provisions drawn to attention

7.1 Cargoes which may liquefy or undergo dynamic separation (Group A). Under paragraph 4.3.3 of the IMSBC Code, where a concentrate or other cargo which may liquefy is to be carried, the shipper shall establish procedures for sampling, testing and controlling the moisture content of the cargo so as to ensure that the moisture content is less than the transportable moisture limit when the cargo is on board the ship. Those procedures shall be approved, and their implementation checked, by the competent authority of the port of loading, and a copy of the approval document shall be provided to the master or his representative. Reference is made to the Guidelines for developing and approving procedures for sampling, testing and controlling the moisture content for solid bulk cargoes which may liquefy (MSC.1/Circ.1454/Rev.1). Shippers intending to present such cargoes for loading at a port in Pakistan shall apply to the Mercantile Marine Department in accordance with the procedure notified separately.

7.2 Emergency response and medical first aid. Attention is drawn to the requirement for detailed instructions on emergency response and medical first aid relevant to incidents involving dangerous goods in packaged form, and to the Emergency Response Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods (EmS Guide) and the Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods (MFAG), as amended. The Standard Operating Procedure for Emergency Response to Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods and the Standard Operating Procedure for Radiation Protection (Class 7 Radioactive Materials), published by the Mercantile Marine Department, apply.

7.3 Class 7 radioactive material. The carriage of Class 7 radioactive material remains subject, in addition to the IMDG Code, to the requirements of the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority and to the Standard Operating Procedure for Radiation Protection referred to above.

8. Action required

8.1 Shipowners, managers and masters shall ensure that ships carry, and operate in accordance with, the current mandatory edition of each applicable Code, and that documents of compliance and cargo certificates reflect that edition.

8.2 Shippers, packers, consignors and freight forwarders shall ensure that cargo declarations, container/vehicle packing certificates, marking, labelling, placarding and documentation conform to the current mandatory edition.

8.3 Port Authorities and terminal operators shall ensure that personnel engaged in the handling of dangerous goods in port areas are trained and competent in accordance with the current mandatory edition, and shall align local rules, bye-laws and standing orders accordingly.

8.4 Recognized Organizations authorized to act on behalf of the Administration shall apply the current mandatory edition in the conduct of surveys and the issue of certificates.

8.5 Surveyors and inspectors of the Directorate General Port and Shipping Wing, and Mercantile Marine Department shall verify compliance with the current mandatory edition during flag State inspections, statutory surveys and port State control inspections, and shall record findings accordingly.

9. Standing arrangement for future amendments

The Technical Committee constituted by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs vide Office Order F. No. 1(1)/2019-Sh-II dated 3 July 2026 is responsible for reviewing and evaluating IMO circulars, resolutions and amendments to mandatory IMO instruments, for proposing corresponding amendments to national

legislation, and for maintaining a monitoring mechanism to ensure that such amendments are incorporated in a timely manner and that the relevant policies, guidance and instructions are issued as appropriate. A Merchant Shipping Notice will accordingly be issued in respect of each future amendment set in advance of its entry into force. Stakeholders will not be relieved of the obligation to comply by reason of any delay in the issue of such a Notice.

10. Competent authority and enquiries

The competent authority for the purposes of the IMDG Code and the IMSBC Code in Pakistan, and the single contact point for the purposes of the relevant IMO contact lists, is the Mercantile Marine Department, Directorate General of Ports & Shipping, Karachi. Enquiries relating to this Notice may be addressed to the Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Karachi.

11. Effect

This Notice takes effect from the date of issue and shall remain in force until amended, superseded or withdrawn.

Director General (Ports & Shipping)
Government of Pakistan

Distribution:

- Karachi Port Trust / Port Qasim Authority / Gwadar Port Authority
- Pakistan Maritime Security Agency
- Pakistan National Shipping Corporation and all Pakistani shipping companies
- All Recognized Organizations authorized by the Administration
- All LNG and oil terminals; container terminal operators
- Pakistan Ship's Agents Association / Karachi Customs Agents Association
- Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Karachi — for circulation to all surveyors
- MMD official website — for publication
- Master file / Office copy