

Title	IMDG Code 2016 / SUPPLEMENT / Reporting Procedures / Foreword
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Note	Incorporating Amendment 35-10

FOREWORD

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, was adopted by the International Conference on Marine Pollution convened by IMO from 8 November to 2 December 1973. This Convention was subsequently modified by a Protocol adopted by the International Conference on Tanker Safety and Pollution Prevention convened from 6 to 17 February 1978. The 1973 Convention, as modified by the 1978 Protocol, is known as MARPOL 73/78.

The MARPOL Convention recognizes that a vessel casualty or an accidental discharge from a ship may give rise to serious pollution or a threat of pollution to the marine environment and provides, therefore, that such incidents should be reported without delay and to the fullest extent possible, in order to facilitate necessary counter-pollution actions by coastal States that might be affected.

The reporting of incidents involving harmful substances and/or marine pollutants is regulated by Protocol I to MARPOL 73/78, as revised by the 1985 and 1996 amendments, which entered into force on 6 April 1987 and 1 January 1998. To supplement the requirements of Protocol I, the IMO Assembly, at its twentieth session, adopted resolution A.851(20) on general principles for ship reporting systems and ship reporting requirements, including guidelines for reporting incidents involving dangerous goods, harmful substances and/or marine pollutants. These general principles supersede all previous guidelines adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee in this regard (resolution A.598(15), resolution A.648(16), resolution MEPC.30(25) and MSC/Circ.360/Rev.1).

The list of agencies or officials of Administrations responsible for receiving and processing such reports is now distributed by means of an MEPC 6 circular issued annually and assigned a consecutive number each year. The updated circular can also be accessed on the IMO website as follows: <http://www.imo.org> (then select 'IMO Circulars/Contact Points' or 'National Contacts')