

Title	MSC Circulars / MSC/Circ.656
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IMO

SAFETY OF SHIPS CARRYING SOLID BULK CARGOES

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-third session (16 to 25 May 1994), concurred with the Secretary-General's appraisal (MSC 63/22/4) that the measures it and its subsidiary bodies had taken to enhance the safety of ships carrying solid bulk cargoes had resulted in a comprehensive set of standards aiming at improving the safety of bulk carriers, additional to others already laid down in SOLAS and other safety-related IMO conventions. However, the loss of such ships since the beginning of 1994 incurring considerable loss of life suggested that it is not the lack of standards that leads to such tragedies but rather their inadequate implementation and enforcement.

2 The Committee, therefore, invited Member Governments to consider taking any necessary action to ensure that existing standards concerning the safety of bulk carriers are properly implemented and, in particular, invites Member Governments to intensify their efforts:

.1 when exercising flag State duties, for the purpose of ensuring the wide and effective implementation of all bulk carrier safety measures adopted by the Organization; and

.2 when exercising port State control duties under the relevant IMO conventions, for the purpose of ensuring compliance of foreign ships calling at their national ports with the safety measures referred to under .1.

3 Member Governments are also invited to draw the attention of shipowners and operators, shipmasters, classification societies, loading and unloading terminal operators and other parties concerned to the need for increased safety in bulk carrier operations.