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**INTERPRETATION OF STOWAGE AND SEGREGATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR BROWN COAL BRIQUETTES AND COAL RELATED TO
"HOT AREAS" IN THE IMSBC CODE**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-seventh session (12 to 21 May 2010), noting that the provisions of the IMSBC Code may be applied from 1 January 2009 on a voluntary basis and are envisaged to become mandatory under the SOLAS Convention on 1 January 2011, recognized the need for clarification of the following stowage and segregation requirements:

- .1 "This cargo shall not be stowed adjacent to hot areas." in paragraph 5 in the section for "STOWAGE & SEGREGATION" in the appendix to the individual schedule for BROWN COAL BRIQUETTES; and
- .2 "The master shall ensure that this cargo is not stowed adjacent to hot areas." in paragraph 4 in the section for "Segregation and stowage requirements" in the appendix to the individual schedule for COAL.

2 The Committee agreed that the words "adjacent to hot areas" in these provisions should be interpreted as "boundary areas of the cargo hold in contact with the cargo, having a temperature consistently greater than 55°C during carriage of the cargo, such as can sometimes be experienced when heated fuel oil service tanks and fuel oil settling tanks have a common boundary with the cargo hold".

3 The Committee recommends that, in applying the aforementioned interpretation, the following is taken into account:

"Heated fuel oil tanks adjacent to cargo spaces carrying these cargoes should not normally be considered as "hot areas" when the fuel oil temperature is controlled at less than 55°C; this temperature is not exceeded for periods greater than 12 hours in any 24-hour period; and the maximum temperature of the fuel oil reached does not exceed 65°C."

4 Member Governments are invited to use the aforementioned interpretation as guidance when applying the provisions of the IMSBC Code and to bring it to the attention of all parties concerned.