

Annex III

HAZMAT Working Group – Final Report

Common HAZMAT Reference Database - HAZMAT Unique ID

Submitted by PROTECT

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The main reason for reporting dangerous and polluting cargo (HAZMAT) is to have the correct information available to the appropriate authorities for risk assessment and calamity abatement. Although the information reported according to Article 13 of Directive 2002/59/EC is enough for a first assessment and response, for a more detailed assessment additional information is vital. This additional information is available in the relevant dangerous and polluting goods legislation or in specialised databases, for example, MAR-ICE and CEDRE (Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution).

2. CURRENT STATUS

The HAZMAT working group advised to use separate lists of substances in accordance with the relevant IMO legal instrument, thus reducing the risks of errors, for example, by selecting the wrong name (e.g. using *benzene* for transporting the substance in tankers rather than the correct technical name which is *benzene or mixtures containing more than 10% benzene*). This will reduce the possibility that the wrong name is used when searching for HAZMAT products in the relevant legal instruments and the technical properties of the product in calamity abatement information sources.

The main focus of the HAZMAT working group was to improve the data quality for HAZMAT reporting in SafeSeaNet. An important step in this process is the use of a validated source for reporting HAZMAT information by the reporting party, for example, the use of the CHR.D.

3. USE OF A UNIQUE HAZMAT ID

The electronic reporting process always starts with the reporting party transferring data from paper into a system.

There are the following issues identified in the reporting:

- How to identify the correct HAZMAT product and to link the electronically reported information with the other sources. The dangerous and polluting goods related legislation, on which reporting is based upon, do not include a unique way of identifying the substances other than their name. The name of the substance may be sometimes ambiguous and appear to be the same in different IMO codes or conventions (see example in Appendix 1). This raises the risk of quoting the wrong information.
- How to identify that data has been validated. The use of a unique reporting number could prove this validation, and consequently improve data quality in the beginning of the reporting process. If a LCA, NCA or EMSA receives a message without an unique

reporting number, they have the option of validating this data by comparing it to the CHRd and any discrepancies are reported to the reporting party for verification¹.

Therefore, in order to overcome these issues, this paper proposes the establishment of a Unique Hazmat ID for each HAZMAT product in the Common HAZMAT Reference Database (CHRd), as an additional element to the already agreed data set.

Such an unique HAZMAT ID should be made available to the industry as 'open data' so reporting parties can incorporate this in existing systems and can be incorporated in the booking systems of shipping lines. The actual reporting of this unique HAZMAT ID will remain optional.

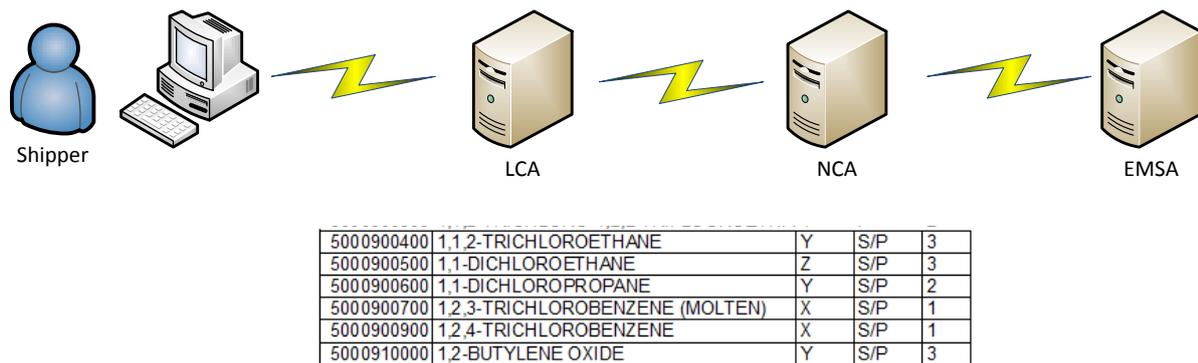


Figure 1 - Example of the HAZMAT_ID application

In the above example (Figure 1) of a HAZMAT database the unique HAZMAT ID for 1.1.-Dichloroethane is 5000900500. This number may be included in the HAZMAT notification to the LCA. So when LCA, NCA and EMSA receive the message they know that the reporting party used a validated data source when entering this data.

Also, the use of HAZMAT_ID could support an effective link between the CHRd and MAR-ICE and the HAZMAT notification (National single window data requirements and SSN PortPlus message), as the products will be identified without any ambiguity.

Additionally, in a crisis situation an error can be easily made, so it would be even more effective to use the unique HAZMAT ID to make a cross reference from the reported information to the calamity abatement information database.

4. ACTION REQUIRED

The SSN Group is invited to consider the benefits of introducing a Unique HAZMAT ID in the CHRd and its reporting, on a voluntary basis, in the HAZMAT notification. In addition to use the unique HAZMAT ID to make the cross references to MAR-ICE.

Appendix 1 – Example of the same name of the product in different conventions – Nitric Acid

¹ In some cases the information provided in the legal instruments is only indicative. It is the obligation of the industry stakeholders to assess and define the correct characteristics of a product and indicate these in the dangerous goods transport documents.

DG classification "IMDG"
"NITRIC ACID"
IMO hazard class "8"
UN number "2031"
Packing group "I"
Subsidiary risks "5.1"
Flashpoint
MARPOL code
EmS Number "F-A S-Q"

DG classification "IMDG"
"NITRIC ACID"
IMO hazard class "8"
UN number "2031"
Packing group "II"
Subsidiary risks "5.1"
Flashpoint
MARPOL code
EmS Number "F-A S-Q"

DG classification "IMDG"
"NITRIC ACID"
IMO hazard class "8"
UN number "2031"
Packing group "II"
Subsidiary risks none
Flashpoint
MARPOL code
EmS Number "F-A S-B"

DG classification "IMDG"
"NITRIC ACID, RED FUMING"
IMO hazard class "8"
UN number "2032"
Packing group "I"
Subsidiary risks "5.1;6.1"
Flashpoint
MARPOL code
EmS Number "F-A S-Q"

DG classification "IBC"
"NITRIC ACID (70% AND OVER)"
IMO hazard class "S/P"
Flashpoint
MARPOL code "Y"

DG classification "IBC"
"NITRIC ACID (LESS THAN 70%)"
IMO hazard class "S/P"
Flashpoint
MARPOL code "Y"