

International Code of Safety for ships using gas or other low flash-point fuels (IGF Code)

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Background

Based on a proposal from Norway, the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 78, May 2004) approved a new work programme item:

“Development of international regulations for gas-fuelled ships”

The Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquid and Gases commenced the development at its 8th session (BLG 8, 2004) and established a correspondence group under the co-ordination of Norway to further progress the work

Progress

BLG 9 (2005) decided a two step approach:

1. Development of interim guidelines for gas-fuelled ships.
2. Development of an IGF Code

BLG 13 (2009) agreed to the draft Interim guidelines on safety for natural gas-fuelled engine installations in ships

MSC 86 (2009) approved "Interim guidelines on safety for natural gas-fuelled engine installation in ships".

IGF Code

BLG 14 (2010) further developed the Draft IGF Code and agreed to ask MSC for an extension of the scope to also cover other gases and low flash-point fuels.

MSC 87 (2010) agreed to the extension of the scope.

BLG 15 (2011) further developed the Draft IGF Code and preliminary agreed to include the following gases and low flash-point fuels:

Fuels

- BLG 15 (2011) further developed the Draft IGF Code and preliminary agreed to include the following gases and low flash-point fuels:
 - Natural gas liquid and compressed
 - Propane liquid and compressed
 - Butane (i and n) liquid
 - Propane/Butane mixtures liquid
 - Ethanol liquid
 - Methanol liquid
 - Hydrogen liquid and compressed
 - Dimethyl-ether liquid

Content of the Code

The Draft IGF Code is currently planned to address safety measures for the following:

- Material and pipe design
- Power generation including gas safe machinery space and Emergency Shut Down protected machinery space
- Fuel storage
- Fuel supply to consumers
- Refuelling
- Ship structure
- Fire safety
- Explosion protection
- Ventilation
- Electrical installations
- Control monitoring and safety systems
- Alternative design
- Operational requirements

Work plan

2011 BLG 15

- Re-establish the correspondence group to continue developing the draft IGF Code

2012 BLG 16

- Establish a working group to further develop the draft IGF Code

2013 BLG 17

- Establish a working/drafting group to finalize the IGF Code
- Submission of the draft IGF Code to other relevant sub-committees for comments

2014 BLG 18

- Establish a drafting group to incorporate comments from other sub-committees and make the necessary editorial and clarification changes
- Submission of the draft IGF Code to the MSC and the MEPC with a view to approval

2014 MSC 93 and MEPC 66

- Adoption

Thank you for the attention

