

# CIRCULAR

## Prohibition of the blending of bulk liquid cargoes and production processes during sea voyages

The new regulation of SOLAS Chapter VI prohibits the physical blending of bulk liquid cargoes and production process during the sea voyage from January 01, 2014.

Through **MSC.325(90)** a new regulation 5-2 has been adopted to SOLAS Chapter VI that includes two requirements for the carriage of cargoes. The first requirement is the prohibition of physical blending of bulk liquid cargoes during the sea voyages and the second requirement the prohibition of any production process on board a ship during sea voyages.

### Prohibition of the blending of bulk liquid cargoes

As per new regulation 5-2 of SOLAS/VI the blending of bulk liquid cargoes during the voyage is forbidden. However, as per paragraph 1 of the new regulation this prohibition does not prevent the master from undertaking cargo transfers for the safety of the ship or protection of the marine environment. Also, as per paragraph 2 of the same regulation, this prohibition does not apply to the blending of product for use in the search and exploitation of seabed mineral resources on board ships used to facilitate such operations.

### Prohibition of any production process

With the new regulation 5-2 any production process on board a ship during sea voyages is also banned. As per paragraph 3 of the new regulation, production processes refer to any deliberate operation whereby a chemical reaction between a ship's cargo and any other substance or cargo takes place. As with the prohibition of the blending of bulk liquid cargoes, this prohibition does not apply to the production processes of cargoes for use in the search and exploitation of seabed mineral resources on board ships used to facilitate such operation.

### Applicability

Ship Type	GT	Date of entry into force
All ships which carry bulk liquid cargoes*	Irrespective of size	01 January 2014

\*Prohibition of blending of product and production process of cargoes for use in the search and exploitation of seabed mineral source will be exempted from these requirements.

### Act now

Ship owners should develop procedures or issue instructions to assure that the Master and crew are aware of these prohibitions.

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