



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Proposed Rule on the Use of Portable Tanks for the Transfer of Hazardous Liquid Cargoes Published

The Coast Guard published in today's *Federal Register*, a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that proposes to revise regulations on the use of portable tanks to carry and transfer hazardous materials onboard vessels.

The Coast Guard last revised these regulations on September 30, 1997 (62 FR 51046). Since that time, the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) harmonized requirements in the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) and the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code for the construction and use of portable tanks. Portable tanks constructed to these requirements are referred to as United Nations (UN) portable tanks. As of January 1, 2003, international regulations require that all newly manufactured portable tanks be designed, constructed, and approved in conformance with the requirements for UN portable tanks found in the IMDG Code. Mariners may continue to use other existing portable tanks provided the tanks continue to meet periodic test and inspection requirements.

The portable tanks authorized in this proposed rule would allow for the transport of packaged hazardous materials in accordance with the latest HMR and IMDG Code. Under the current regulations, intermediate bulk containers are not authorized for the transfer of certain hazardous liquid cargo.

The proposed rule and related materials may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov>; docket number: USCG-2001-10180.

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