



HazMat Survey

Managing the hidden hazards on board ships

Increase your awareness of HazMats Securing the working environment

There are many hazardous materials (HazMats) used daily in the seafaring environment: in ship operations, housekeeping, maintenance and repair, and in construction. Yet often, very little is known about them and how to protect against them, although the UNO and IMO have adopted and ratified several conventions and guidelines which restrict or ban hazardous materials within the maritime world.

Some of these HazMats can have negative effects on the health of your personnel. In addition, the use of substances such as asbestos in ship structures has created a mounting legacy and financial liability in the industry. So evidently increased awareness of these hazards is essential for proper risk assessment and responsible management.

An introduction to HazMats

The term 'HazMats' is used to refer to any material that has properties which may result in risk or injury to health and/or extensive damage to facilities. Many have neither a taste nor an odour. Some can be detected because they cause physical reactions such as watering eyes or nausea. Sometimes the substance can be identified from placards, labels or markings. HazMats can be: corrosive, ignitable, reactive to water, heat or pressure, radioactive, toxic or infectious.

The most common HazMats on board ships Asbestos

Asbestos is a group of inorganic naturally occurring, crystalline silicates. Continuous exposure to elevated levels causes serious diseases and can be deadly. On board ships, asbestos is used in gaskets, floor tiles or brake linings, paint colours and other coatings. It may also be present in ropes, insulating blankets, exhaust insulation, wall panels and ceiling tiles. According to the latest requirement of SOLAS Chapter II-1 Regulation 3-5 adopted by MSC on 05 June 2009 and its accompanying Unified Interpretation as from 08-12-2010, asbestos is banned without exemptions for all new installations effective as of 1 January 2011.



Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)

ODS are fluorocarbon compounds that contribute to stratospheric ozone depletion when they break down. On board ships, ODS are found as a refrigerant in cooling and air condition systems. They are also widely used in insulation foams.

CFCs (R11, R12, R113, R 500) are banned under the Montreal Protocol, Hong Kong Convention and MARPOL Annex VI as well. HCFCs (R22, R123) will be phased out at the latest effective 2020/2040.



Potentially sources for HazMats: Cooling Systems on board of ships.

Why work with GL to manage HazMats?

To fulfil the individual requirements of our clients, GL has designed an integrated and sustainable program for managing HazMats on board ships through the entire ship lifecycle. Our lengthy experience in dealing with this issue at the IMO, along with our comprehensive know-how in shipbuilding and operation, makes us ideally suited to support you in optimizing your facilities.

In collaboration with GL-approved HazMat experts and GL-approved labs, our individually tailored services for shipowners, shipyards and suppliers to the shipping industry include:

- HazMat survey for newbuild projects according to IMO regulations

- HazMat survey for Fleet in Service vessels
- Development of HazMat management plans
- 4-Day training course for HazMat experts
- Certified asbestos management training
- Monitoring and evaluation of materials and components
- Inventory for Hazardous Materials (IHM)
- Awareness training about UN/IMO regulations

How you benefit

- Be in step with current and future legal regulations
- Enhance your image as an environmentally-friendly company
- Demonstrate excellence standards (GL Environmental Passport, Blue Angel)
- Increase the resale value of your vessel
- Manage your investments and maintenance more effectively
- Enhance shipbuilding quality through IHM (Asbestos and ODS-free status)
- Generate synergies by choosing an integrated GL approach



For more information please contact us.

One-stop shopping at GL

In addition GL and its subsidiaries offer you a broad portfolio of products and services including:

Training (by GL Academy)

HazMat Expert seminar, Certified asbestos management training, IMO Convention on Ship Recycling, Ship Recycling for Owners/Ship Yards/Suppliers

Consulting

Material Declaration Consulting, Environmental Consulting

Materials certification (Materials and Components)

Systems Certification

IMO, ISO, Emission trading amongst others



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