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Subpart C—General Handling and Stowage

§ 176.57 Supervision of handling and stowage.

(a) Hazardous materials may be handled or stowed on board a vessel only under the direction and observation of a responsible person assigned this duty.

(b) For a vessel engaged in coastwise voyages, or on rivers, bays, sounds or lakes, including the Great Lakes when the voyage is not foreign-going, the responsible person may be an employee of the carrier and assigned this duty by the carrier, or a licensed officer attached to the vessel and assigned by the master of the vessel.

(c) For a domestic vessel engaged in a foreign-going or intercoastal voyage, the responsible person must be an officer possessing an unexpired license issued by the USCG and assigned this duty by the master of the vessel.

(d) For a foreign vessel, the responsible person must be an officer of the vessel assigned this duty by the master of the vessel.

[Amdt. 176–30, 55 FR 52689, Dec. 21, 1990]

§ 176.58 Preparation of the vessel.

(a) Each hold or compartment in which hazardous materials are to be stowed must be free of all debris before the hazardous materials are stowed. Bilges must be examined and all residue of previous cargo removed.

(b) All decks, gangways, hatches, and cargo ports over or through which hazardous materials must be passed or handled in loading or unloading must be free of all loose materials before cargo handling operations begin.

(c) No debris that creates a fire hazard or a hazardous condition for persons engaged in handling hazardous materials may be on the weather deck of a vessel during loading or unloading operations.

(d) Hatch beams and hatch covers may not be stowed in a location that would interfere with cargo handling.

[Amdt. 176–30, 55 FR 52689, Dec. 21, 1990]

§ 176.60 "No Smoking" signs.

When smoking is prohibited during the loading, stowing, storing, transportation, or unloading of hazardous materials by this part, the carrier and the master of the vessel are jointly responsible for posting ''NO SMOKING'' signs in conspicuous locations.

§ 176.63 Stowage locations.

(a) The table in §172.101 of this subchapter specifies generally the locations authorized for stowage of the various hazardous materials on board vessels. This part prescribes additional requirements with respect to the stowage of specific hazardous materials in addition to those authorized in §172.101 of this subchapter. This section sets forth the basic physical requirements for the authorized locations.

(b) To qualify as ''on deck'' stowage, the location must be on the weather deck. If it is in a house on the weather deck, it must have a permanent structural opening to the atmosphere, such as a door, hatch, companionway or manhole, and must be vented to the atmosphere. It may not have any structural opening to any living quarters, cargo, or other compartment unless the opening has means for being closed off and secured. Any deck house containing living quarters, a steering engine, a refrigerating unit, a refrigerated stowage box, or a heating unit may not be used unless that area is isolated from the cargo stowage area by a permanent, and tight metallic bulkhead. Stowage in a shelter or 'tween deck is not considered to be ''on deck''. A barge which is vented to the atmosphere and is stowed on deck on a barge-carrying ship is considered to be ''on deck''. When an entry in §172.101 of this subchapter requires ''on-deck'' stowage and is qualified by the requirement ''shade from radiant heat'', the stowage must be protected from the direct rays of the sun by means of structural erections or awnings except that such protection is not required for shipment in portable tanks.

(c) To qualify as ''under deck'' stowage, the location must be in a hold or compartment below the weather deck capable of being ventilated and allotted entirely to the carriage of cargo. It must be bounded by permanent steel decks and bulkheads or the shell of the vessel. The deck openings must have means for effectively closing the hold or compartment against the weather,

and in the case of superimposed holds, for effectively closing off each hold. A hold or compartment containing a crew passage formed by battens or by mesh or wire screen bulkhead may not be used for the stowage of any hazardous material unless a watchman is provided for this area.

(d) To qualify as ''under deck away from heat'', the location must be under deck and have built-in means for ventilation. If it is subject to heat from any artificial source, it only qualifies for the stowage of those hazardous materials for which ''under deck'' stowage is authorized.

(e) *Closed cargo transport unit,* for the purpose of stowage of Class 1 (explosive) materials on board a vessel, means a unit which fully encloses the contents by permanent structures and can be secured to the ship's structure, and includes a magazine. Cargo transport units with fabric sides or tops are not closed cargo transport units. Where this stowage is specified, stowage in small compartments such as deckhouses and mast lockers are acceptable alternatives. The floor of any closed cargo transport unit or compartment shall either be constructed of wood, close-boarded or so arranged that goods are stowed on sparred gratings, wooden pallets or dunnage. Provided that the necessary additional specifications are met, a closed cargo transport unit may be used for type ''A'' or ''C'' class 1 stowage or as a magazine.''

(f) *Stowage of containers on board hatchless container ships.* (1) Containers holding a hazardous material may be stowed in or vertically above a hatchless container hold if the following conditions are met:

(1) All hazardous materials are permitted for *under deck* stowage as specified in the Table in §172.101 of this subchapter; and

(2) The hatchless container hold is in full compliance with the provisions of SOLAS, Chapter II–2/Regulation 19 (IBR; *see* §171.7 of this subchapter), applicable to enclosed container cargo spaces, as appropriate for the cargo transported.

[Amdt. 176–1, 41 FR 16110, Apr. 15, 1976, as amended by Amdt. 176–1A, 41 FR 40687, Sept. 20, 1976; Amdt. 176–1B, 41 FR 57072, Dec. 30, 1976; Amdt. 176–12, 45 FR 81572, Dec. 11, 1980; 66 FR 33438, June 21, 2001; 66 FR 45184, Aug. 28, 2001; 68 FR 45038, July 31, 2003; 69 FR 76180, Dec. 20, 2004; 76 FR 3384, Jan. 19, 2011]

§ 176.65 Alternative stowage procedures.

When a hazardous material is to be loaded on board a vessel and it is shown to the satisfaction of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port for the place where the vessel is being loaded that it is impracticable to comply with a stowage location requirement specified in the §172.101 table of this subchapter or a segregation, handling or stowage requirement specified in this part, the Captain of the Port may authorize in writing the use of an alternative stowage location or method of segregation, handling or stowage subject to such conditions as he finds will insure a level of safety at least equal to that afforded by the regulatory requirement concerned.

[Amdt. 176–30, 55 FR 52689, Dec. 21, 1990]

§ 176.69 General stowage requirements for hazardous materials.

(a) Hazardous materials (except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section and Class 9 (miscellaneous hazardous) materials) must be stowed in a manner that will facilitate inspection during the voyage, their removal from a potentially dangerous situation, and the removal of packages in case of fire.

(b) Each package marked in accordance with §172.312(a)(2) of this subchapter must be stowed as to remain in the position indicated during transportation.

(c) If a vessel designed for and carrying hazardous materials in freight containers or a vessel designed for and carrying hazardous materials in barges is equipped with a fixed fire extinguishing and fire detection system, the freight containers or barges need not be stowed in the manner required by paragraph (a) of this section. When freight containers or barges containing hazardous materials are stowed on deck, they need not be stowed in the