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Circular Letter No.4425
8 July 2021

To: All IMO Member States
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **The twenty-seventh session of the PPR Technical Group on the Evaluation of Safety and Pollution Hazards of Chemicals (11 to 15 October 2021)¹**

1 According to the meeting calendar for 2021 (PROG/129/Rev.1), the Secretary-General has the honour to invite representation at the twenty-seventh session of the Technical Group on the Evaluation of Safety and Pollution Hazards of Chemicals (ESPH) of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR), which will be held remotely from Monday, 11 October 2021, to Friday, 15 October 2021. Upon conclusion of the final virtual meeting on 15 October 2021, the meeting will remain open, by correspondence, for a further five working days, until Friday, 22 October 2021, to allow for final review and approval of the report of the Group.

2 The provisional agenda of ESPH 27, as approved by PPR 8 (PPR 8/13, annex 2), is attached to this circular letter. Further documentation, including an annotated agenda and a provisional timetable for the session will be issued in due course.

3 The meeting will be conducted in English, without interpretation or translation of documents.

Submission of documents to ESPH 27

4 In accordance with the Committees' Method of work (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.2), the deadlines and method for the submission of documents to the session are specified in the Notes to the provisional agenda of ESPH 27 (ESPH 27/1).

Distribution of documents

5 Relevant documentation will be made available on IMODOCS (<https://docs.imo.org>) under "IMO Documents", "Meeting Documents", "PPR Sub-Committee", then click on "ESPH documents".

¹ These dates correspond to the meeting days but the remote session will formally close after the five working day correspondence period, in accordance with the *Interim guidance to facilitate remote sessions of the Committees during the COVID-19 pandemic* (MSC-LEG-MEPC-TCC-FAL.1/Circ.1).

Modality of the meeting and platform for the virtual meeting

6 ESPH 27 is expected to take place from Monday, 11 October 2021, to Friday, 15 October 2021 with daily sessions from 11.00 to 14.00 (UTC+1), with a 15-minute break approximately halfway through the proceedings. Meeting arrangements and times for the evaluation of cleaning additives will be included in the annotated agenda.

7 Detailed information regarding the e-conferencing platform to be used for the virtual meeting will be provided in due course.

Registration and meeting participation

8 Delegations wishing to participate should ensure that they have been registered in the Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS), including the email address they wish to use for the virtual meeting.

9 Details regarding registration are contained in the annex. Joining instructions will be sent to registered delegates in due course (shortly before the meeting).

ANNEX

REGISTRATION AT IMO MEETINGS

Member Governments, UN agencies, IGOs and NGOs are required to provide, prior to the meeting date, the names and email addresses of all the members of their delegations attending the meeting via the Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS), as advised in Circular Letter No.4336 of 5 November 2020. This will facilitate the organization of the meeting and production of the list of participants by the Secretariat.

Any matters relating to the use of the OMRS and the participation in the forthcoming virtual session of ESPH 27 should be communicated to:

Registration Unit
Meeting Services and Interpretation Section
Email: onlineregistration@imo.org

Members of delegations will not be registered to attend the meeting without authorization from their OMRS Delegation Coordinator. Delegates whose names do not appear on the OMRS list will be requested to contact their OMRS Delegation Coordinator in order to process their authorization to attend the meeting.

A link for the virtual meeting and joining instructions will be sent to those delegates who registered in OMRS in due course (shortly before the meeting).

PPR TECHNICAL GROUP ON THE
EVALUATION OF SAFETY AND POLLUTION
HAZARDS OF CHEMICALS
27th session
Agenda item 1

ESPH 27/1
8 July 2021
ENGLISH ONLY

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**for the twenty-seventh session of the PPR Technical Group on the
Evaluation of Safety and Pollution Hazards of Chemicals
to be held by remotely¹ from Monday, 11 October, to Friday, 15 October 2021**

Session commences at 11 a.m. (UTC+1) on Monday, 11 October 2021

Opening of the session

- 1 Adoption of the agenda
- 2 Decisions of other IMO bodies
- 3 Evaluation of products²
- 4 Evaluation of cleaning additives
- 5 Review of the MEPC.2/Circular – Provisional classification of liquid substances transported in bulk and other related matters
- 6 Review of products in lists 2, 3 and 4 of the MEPC.2 circular
- 7 Revision of MEPC.1/Circ.590 – expanded guidance on what can be considered as a cleaning additive for the cleaning of NLS cargo residues
- 8 Consider the implications that the lack of toxic vapour detection equipment will have on the daily operation of chemical tankers
- 9 Proposed provisional agenda for ESPH 28
- 10 Report to the Sub-Committee

¹ Refer to the decisions of ALCOM/ES (ALCOM/ES/5/1) and MSC-LEG-MEPC-TCC-FAL.1/Circ.1 on *Interim guidance to facilitate remote sessions of the Committees during the COVID-19 pandemic*.

² Submissions for trade-named mixtures under agenda item 3 should be provided with an email contact point in order for other Member States to request information on mixture calculations.

Notes

1 In accordance with the Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environmental Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.2.) (Committees' Method of work):

- .1 documents should be received by the Secretariat, by **Friday, 27 August 2021**;
- .2 for reasons of economy, documents should be submitted in single spacing, be as concise as possible and:
 - .1 all documents should include a brief summary prepared in accordance with the Committees' Guidelines;
 - .2 substantive documents should conclude with a summary of the action which the Committee is invited to take; and
 - .3 information documents should conclude with a summary of the information contained therein.
- .3 the following word-processing format should be observed in order to standardize the presentation of documents:
 - font: Arial;
 - font size: 11;
 - justification: full;
 - margins: 2 cm top, 2.5 cm bottom, left and right.

A template is available on the IMODOCS website for use in the preparation of documents; and

To facilitate the processing of documents, they should be sent via email in Microsoft Word to esph@imo.org. It should be noted that the file size limit for the IMO email system is set at 10 Mbytes. If submitters do not receive an acknowledgement receipt by the Secretariat within five working days, they should contact the Secretary of the Technical Group³ without delay.

2 In the Committees' Method of work, inter alia, the Secretariat is requested to strictly apply the rules concerning the submission of documents and not accept late submissions from Member States or international organizations.

³ Mr. Loukas Kontogiannis (lkontogi@imo.org).