



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
49th session  
Agenda item 7

MEPC 49/INF.15  
7 May 2003  
ENGLISH ONLY

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPRC CONVENTION AND THE OPRC-HNS  
PROTOCOL AND RELEVANT OPRC CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS**

**Marine incidents involving “Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)”**

**Submitted by IMarEST**

**SUMMARY**

**Executive summary:** In October 2002 the IMarEST President presented a paper to the Institute on the effect of the OPRC Convention and need for early ratification of the OPRC-HNS protocol with a list of some worldwide HNS incidents that had occurred

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 3

**Related documents:** MEPC 48/21, paragraph 6.29

**Background**

1 At MEPC 48 the Chairman informed the Committee that the President of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) delivered an address at its President’s Day on 8 October 2002, entitled, “Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Protocol, Marine Incidents – The Clock is Ticking”. The Chairman of MEPC asked IMarEST to submit an information paper on HNS incidents at the next MEPC (MEPC 48/21, paragraph 6.29).

2 In accordance with the above, the attached annex provides information on some serious Hazardous and Noxious Substances incidents which have occurred worldwide.

**Action requested of the Committee**

3 The Committee is invited to note the information provided.

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## ANNEX

**CHRONOLOGY OF SOME SERIOUS WORLDWIDE HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS  
SUBSTANCES INCIDENTS**

<b>Location and Year</b>	<b>Vessel</b>	<b>HNS</b>	<b>Quantity Involved</b>	<b>Incident Consequences</b>
Halifax, Canada, 1917	Montblanc	Explosives	2,600 tons	Explosion, 3,000 killed, 9,000 injured
Texas City, 1947	Grandcamp	Ammonium Nitrate	2,200 tons	Fire and explosion, 468 killed, second vessel caught fire and exploded carrying sulphur and ammonium nitrate
Italian Coast, 1974	Cavtat	Tetraethyl lead Tetramethyl lead	150 tons in drums 120 tons in drums	Collision and sinking
Landskrona Sweden, 1976	Rene 16	Ammonia	180 tons	Hose rupture, two dead showered by ammonia
North Sea, 1979	Sindbad	Chlorine	52 one ton flasks	Flasks lost at sea due to rough weather
Adriatic coast, 1984	Brigitta Montanari	Vinyl chloride	1,300 tons	Sinking
Mogadishu port, 1985	Ariadne	62 IMDG-classed chemicals	Over 750 tons in teus	Grounded, fires, local population at risk. Sunk
North Sea, 1987	Herald of Free Enterprise	Undeclared ro-ro freight packages	Over 500 tons	Capsized, hazards to salvage divers
Cape Finisterre, 1987	Cason	Mixed dangerous cargo in packages	1,000 tons	Fire and grounding, 23 crew members perished
Dutch Coast, 1988	Anna Boere	Acrylonitrile, Dodecylbenzene	547 tons 500 tons	Collision and sinking
Italian Coast, 1991	Alessandro Primo	Acrylonitrile, Dichloroethane	550 tons 1000 tons	Sinking
Greek Islands 1994	Tus	Sodium hydroxide (Caustic soda)	4,200 tons	Grounding
Chinese coast, 1995	Chung Mu	Styrene	310 tons	Collision
English Channel, 1995	Grape 1	Xylene	4,000 tons	Sinking
North Scottish Coast, 1999	Multitank Ascania	Vinyl acetate	1,750 tons	Fire, left abandoned, threat to villages
Thames Estuary, 1999	Ever Decent	Sodium cyanide, potassium cyanide	Various teus in vicinity with other flammables	Collision with pax ship, fire, extensive fire fighting, coastal threat

<b>Location and Year</b>	<b>Vessel</b>	<b>HNS</b>	<b>Quantity Involved</b>	<b>Incident Consequences</b>
English Channel, 2000	Iveoli Sun	Styrene, methyl ethyl ketone, iso-propyl alcohol	4,000 tons, 1,027 tons, 997 tons	Sank under tow, sunken cargo recovered following year
North Sea, 2001	AB Bilbao	Ferro silicon	3,300 tons	Cargo hold explosion
Bristol Channel, 2001	Dutch Navigator	Hydrofluorosilicic acid	Two damaged ISO tanks	Damaged in hold during storm
South Africa, Sept 2002	Jolly Rubino	Fungicides, phenol, voronate, ethyl acetate, methyl iso-butyl ketone	Various tons in containers	Engine room fire spread to ship, abandoned, then grounded. Fire, oil and chemical incident
English Channel, Sept 2002	Wester Till	Various chemicals adjacent to hold fire	Approx 200 tons	Fire threat to adjoining hold with chemicals
Japan, October 2002	Eiwa Maru	Xylene	500 tons	Sank after collision with container ship

**Note:**

The full IMarEST Presidential paper given by Mr Simon Rickaby, President 2002/3 is available from the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology, 80 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5BJ, or by e-mailing Graham Hockley, Director of Technical Affairs at [graham.hockley@imarest.org](mailto:graham.hockley@imarest.org)