

Conference of Specialists Concerning the Preparation against and the Handling of HNS Pollution Accidents

January 25, 2006

Marine Environment Protection & Disaster
Prevention Division

Guard and Rescue Department, Japan Coast Guard

Creating a National System

- 1 Settling a national emergency program;
- 2 Revising the laws concerning the prevention of marine pollution, etc. and maritime disaster;
- 3 Promoting study training, research studies and international cooperation; and
- 4 Strengthening the system of the Japan Coast Guard, etc.

National Contingency Plan

- [1] Establishing report and communication, safety and health maintenance systems;
- [2] Utilizing various databases concerning the properties and riskiness of, and measures, materials and equipment for the pollution prevention and removal of HNSs;
- [3] Clarifying the execution core of and the division of roles in taking measures for the pollution prevention and removal of HNSs, and grasping and making an effective use of the capacities of materials and equipment;
- [4] Creating a system allowing to utilize the knowledge and information provided by specialists;
- [5] Establishing an effective system required for fire fighting and towing operations when a fire starts;
- [6] Building up a close coordination between land and sea;
and
- [7] Promoting research studies and technical development.

Revising the Laws Concerning the Prevention of Marine Pollution, etc. and Maritime Disaster

1 Measures to prevent marine pollution caused by noxious liquid substances:

- Reporting operations when an accident occurs;
- Measures to be taken when an accident occurs:
 - Imposing on shipowners a duty to take appropriate measures to prevent marine pollution and to remove noxious substances;
 - Orders to take proper measures, given by the Director-General of the Japan Coast Guard (including measures when noxious substances could discharge, and removal of sunken ships);
- Preparation for accidents:
 - Imposing on shipowners a duty to equip ships with appropriate materials against accidents;
 - Imposing on managers of keeping facilities a duty to furnish written instructions for emergency measures;
 - Execution of prevention and removal measures by the Maritime Disaster Prevention Center, an independent administrative agency;
 - Settling a prevention and removal program by the Director-General of the Japan Coast Guard (revision of the discharged oil prevention and removal program).

2 Measures to prevent maritime disaster caused by hazardous substances:

- Reporting operations when an accident occurs;
- Orders to take proper measures, given by the Director-General of the Japan Coast Guard.

Promoting Study Training, Research Studies and International Cooperation

- Establishing study training courses concerning the handling of HNS pollution accidents;
- Continuing research studies and technical development to create a new system;
- International cooperation through the utilization of the frameworks of the IMO (International Maritime Organization) and/or the UNEP (United Nations Environment Program);
- Promoting coordination with neighboring countries, and securing communication and report connections with the flag states of HNS transport ships sailing Japanese territorial waters.

Strengthening the System of the Japan Coast Guard, etc.

- [1] Strengthening the ability of the Mobile Prevention and Removal Task Force to cope with HNS pollution accidents (study training, research studies and materials and equipment);
- [2] Deploying patrol boats with a reinforced ability to cope with HNS pollution accidents (including materials and equipment on board);
- [3] Building up an in-accidents risk recognition and assessment system;
- [4] Building up a danger zone setting system, using computer simulations; and
- [5] Improving the knowledge and skills of the personnel concerned, having stress on the crews of the patrol boats.



END