



INFORMATION PAPER NO: 62

Storage of Dangerous Cargoes in Port Areas

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The tragic consequences of the explosions and resultant fires in the port area of Tianjin, China have shocked the cargo handling community across the world.

Whilst the circumstances are being investigated by the Chinese Authorities it would be wrong for anyone to speculate on the exact cause of the incident and what chemicals were being stored, in what quantities and how.

However it is appropriate at this juncture to remind all those companies and individuals with responsibility for the transport, handling and storage, however temporary, of dangerous cargoes that there exists a wealth of information about how to minimise the risk inherent in such cargoes. This goes much further than storage and segregation and involves;

- Considerations over suitable of warehouses, storage areas and facilities
- Training and personnel
- Transport and Handling
- Emergency preparedness and equipment
- Special requirements for various types of cargoes
- Local rules and national legislation

Many states have their own specific rules, regulations and guidance for such cargoes and these should be referred to as appropriate. These tend to be based on the general guidance issued by the International Maritime Organisation and contained in document;

“Revised Recommendations on the Safe Transport of Dangerous Cargoes and Related Activities in Port Areas” 2007 Edition. IB290E

This publication is available through ICHCA

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