



Increased Safety when Loading or Unloading Inland Navigation Tank Barges

The Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR) and the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) have initiated a project for the development of safety guidelines concerning the loading and unloading of inland navigation tank-barges. These guidelines will enhance the safety of transport of dangerous goods at the ship/shore or ship/ship interface of inland tank barges. With the cooperation of all industry branches involved in the transport of dangerous goods and in the absence of specific legal requirements, this project, which began on 26th January 2006 in Strasbourg with a “kick off meeting”, is both exemplary and innovative.

Inland navigation is recognized as a safe and environmentally friendly mode of transport, particularly in regard to the transport of dangerous goods. The interface between ship and shore is the main source of possible incidents that still could be minimized.

Experts of the European Barge Union (EBU), the European Shippers Organisation (ESO), the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), the European Petroleum Industry Association (EUROPIA), the Federation of European Tank Storage Associations (FETSA), the OCIMF and other industry organisations, with Dr. Gunther Jaegers, chairman of the EBU tankbarging committee, heading the project, will develop the guidelines, using the International Safety Guide for Oil Tankers and Terminals (ISGOTT) as the basis. The goal is to work out practical guidelines, based on a proven concept of the maritime sector. It will also ensure compatibility between ocean and inland navigation.

The foreseen guidelines will not amend or replace existing legal requirements. Instead they will offer additional practical guidance that will be provided to the operators through the involved industry associations. In reference to its origin, the safety guide will be named “International Safety Guide for Inland Navigation Tank-barges and Terminals (ISGINTT)”. Its publication is foreseen for 2008.

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