At its plenary session in June 2015, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) adopted an amendment to the Rhine Police Regulations (RPR) (Resolution 2015-I-7). These regulations determine the requirements applicable to ships using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as a fuel which will come into force on 1st December 2015. In particular, these requirements provide that before commencing bunkering with liquefied natural gas (LNG), the boatmaster shall be required to ensure that the conditions laid down in the checklist for bunkering with liquefied natural gas (LNG) have been satisfied.

To give effect to these requirements, the CCNR is publishing edition 1.0 of the standard for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) bunker checklist truck to ship (link to the list). This standard is available in French, German, Dutch and English. It comprises the checklist provided for in the RPR on the one hand and guidelines on the other hand. The guidelines aim to expand on the content of this list and to assist the boatmaster in completing it.

This checklist is based on that published by the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) and already used by a number of river/sea ports. The CCNR, given its desire to standardise practices to the greatest extent possible, and in partnership with the IAPH, has tailored the truck to ship bunker checklist to the Rhine context and its regulations without amending its structure, spirit and safety levels.

Use of this list is mandatory for all liquefied natural gas (LNG) bunker operations involving a ship if this bunkering takes place along the Rhine waterway or in a port (Article 1.24 of the RPR).

The checklist is in 4 parts (A, B, C, D). Part A is an aid to planning liquefied natural gas (LNG) bunker operations. Part B identifies items to be checked before commencing the transfer of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Part C concerns the necessary exchange of data prior to commencing the transfer of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Part D concerns items to be checked after the transfer of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Parts B, C and D of the checklist must be completed during a bunker operation. The use of part A of the checklist is optional but recommended.

The use of this checklist ensures a good exchange of information between the boatmaster and the driver of the bunker truck. It therefore improves the safe navigation of the Rhine.

ABOUT THE CCNR

The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) is an international organisation that exercises an essential regulatory role in the navigation of the Rhine. It is active in the technical, legal, economic and environmental fields. In all its areas of action, its work is guided by the efficiency of transport on the Rhine, safety, social considerations, and respect for the environment. Many of the Central Commission’s activities now reach beyond the Rhine and are directly concerned with European navigable waterways more generally. The Central Commission works closely with the European Commission as well as with the other river commissions and international organisations.

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