

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 2003

From: "Clare Boam" <Clare.Boam@dft.gsi.gov.uk>

To: <nifs-hns@jus.uio.no>

Subject: HNS Correspondence Group (IMO Legal Committee):UK MCA Coastal Survey of Packaged Chemical and Other Hazardous Items

Dear Colleagues,

Please see the attached request which I am circulating on behalf of The Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS).

The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency has commissioned ACOPS to undertake a survey of items lost from shipping and washed up on UK beaches.

The attached paper requests advice from members of the Correspondence Group on the identification of best or unique response practices concerning beached hazardous goods.

Any queries or responses on this matter should be directed to info@acops.org or the other contacts provided in the paper.

Kind regards,

Clare Boam

Shipping Policy 1a

Department for Transport

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***The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Coastal Survey of Packaged
Chemical and Other Hazardous Items (2002/2003)***

The loss of hazardous goods from shipping has been a recurring pollution problem around the UK. Hazardous chemicals lost from shipping have directly polluted the marine environment and posed a hazard to health and public safety on beaches and in coastal waters.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has commissioned The Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) to undertake a major survey of items lost from shipping and washed up on the beaches of the United Kingdom. The survey will identify the range and scale of the problem around the UK and determine trends in the type and physical state of packaged goods, containers and other hazardous items washed up on the shoreline.

The data collected will enable the MCA to provide guidance on the threat and risks associated with such incidents to the organisations who respond to such incidents. This will enable local authorities to focus and re-evaluate their contingency plans and response arrangements based on the experience of other responders.

This is the third successive MCA/ACOPS survey on beached hazardous goods in the UK, which have taken place at 10 yearly intervals since 1982. Each completed survey has provided data on the following:

- The adequacy of warnings on packaged material washed up on the shoreline;
- The problems encountered by local authorities and fire brigades responding to such incidents;
- Best or unique response practices;
- Guidance on handling beached packages;
- The costs incurred by the relevant organisations in responding; and,
- The extent of risk posed by such material to bathers and other beach users.

The IMO has suggested that members of the Correspondence Group on Implementation of the HNS Convention may be able to offer advice concerning the identification of best or unique response practices to such incidents.

Would members please forward any comments or advice directly to ACOPS using one of the contact points shown below:

- (1) info@acops.org
- (2) ACOPS, 11, Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BN
- (3) +44 (20) 77993033.