

Meeting of the Focal Points of the
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency
Response Centre for the Mediterranean
Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.16/5/3
10 October 1998

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Malta, 25 - 28 November 1998

Agenda Item 5.3

OPERATIONAL GUIDES AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

Note by REMPEC

1. The previous Meeting of Focal Points (Malta, 22 - 26 October 1996) reviewed the on-going activities undertaken in the preparation of operational guides and technical documents of part C and D of the Regional Information System (RIS). As in previous meetings, it was considered desirable to be able to find concise information in these documents without having to refer to other publications. The aim of these guides and documents forming part of the RIS prepared by REMPEC is to summarize background information and, where possible, provide essential knowledge on a particular aspect of preparedness for and response to marine pollution emergencies.

2. The current status of the preparation of the operational guides and technical documents making up part C/D of the Regional Information System is as follows:

Prepared and distributed

- Standardized Classification Systems for Chemicals Accidentally Spilt at Sea (RIS/C/6);
- Guide for Combating Accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (RIS/D/1);
- Guidelines for the use of Dispersants for Combating Oil Pollution at Sea in the Mediterranean Region (RIS/D/2);
- Concise Dictionary of Marine Anti-Pollution Terms (RIS/D/3);
- The Significance of a Material Safety Data Sheet (RIS/D/4);
- Personal Protective Equipment and Monitoring Devices for Maritime Chemical Emergencies (RIS/D/5);
- The TROCS database and its Use in Response to Lost Packages Washed Ashore (RIS/D/6);
- Theory and Practice of Foams in Chemical Spill Response (RIS/D/7);
- Risks of Gaseous Releases Resulting from Maritime Incidents (RIS/D/11);

Still to be prepared

- Priority list of substances (RIS/D/8);
- Technical intervention files of an operational character by substance (RIS/D/9);
- Case studies describing hazardous material spills (RIS/D/10);
- Risks of Gaseous Releases Resulting from Maritime Incidents (RIS/D/11 Supplement);
- Impact of spilled hazardous substances on human life and the marine environment (RIS/D/12);
- Remote sensing Techniques applicable to spilled hazardous substances in the marine environment (RIS/D/13);
- Guide to marine chemical spills (RIS/D/14).

3. It is also recalled that the last Meeting of Focal Points had approved a draft Table of Contents for the *Guide to Marine Chemical Spills*. The main aim of this technical document is to provide guidance on possible spill countermeasures to the main behaviour groups of chemicals.

4. The OPRC Working Group had also embarked on a project as part of its workplan to update the IMO's Chemical Pollution Manual - Section 1 "Problem Assessment and Response Arrangements" (refer to Agenda Item 8). This project lead by Canada and France has now been completed and a draft text of the revised IMO manual was prepared for consideration and approval by the 42nd session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (November 2 - 6, 1998).

5. The Centre, which had contributed to the technical aspects of the IMO manual as well as to the co-ordination of the work, felt that since the IMO's manual was based on strategies, techniques and response options for marine chemical emergencies, it was best to delay the preparation of REMPEC's Guide to avoid repetition of content and a duplication of effort.

6. With regard to the document entitled *Priority list of Substances (RIS/D/8)* and *Technical Intervention Files of an Operational Character by Substances (RIS/D/9)*, it must be recalled that the inclusion of the two technical documents in the Centre's RIS was a result of the conclusions of the Workshop on Combating Accidental Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Harmful Substances (ROCC/WG/1/5, 22 - 26 May 1989). More specifically, the Workshop concluded that the Centre "should establish a priority list of substances and prepare for these substances, on the basis of the existing information and the work already accomplished, technical intervention files of operational character including accident scenarios".

7. The Meeting might wish to consider that with the advent of P.C. technology and the current state-of-the-art and more specifically, the new TROCS database, these two documents could be deleted from part D of the RIS. Taking into account the afore-mentioned, at annex is a proposed modified list of part D: Operational Guides and Technical Documents of the Centre's Regional Information System.

Action requested of the Meeting of Focal Points

8. The Meeting is invited to take note and comment on this part of the Regional Information System.

ANNEX

**Proposed modified list of Part D of
the Regional Information System**

- SECTION 1** **Guide for combating accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean.**
Published.
- SECTION 2** **Guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea in
the Mediterranean region.**
Published.
- SECTION 3** **Concise dictionary of Marine Anti-pollution Terms.**
Published.
- SECTION 4** **The significance of a Material Safety Data Sheet.**
Published.
- SECTION 5** **Personal protective equipment and monitoring devices for maritime
chemical emergencies.**
Published.
- SECTION 6** **The TROCS database and its use in response to lost packages washed
ashore.**
Published.
- SECTION 7** **Theory and practice of foams in chemical spill response.**
Published.
- SECTION 8** **~~Priority list of substances.~~**
- SECTION 9** **~~Technical intervention files of an operational character by substance.~~**
- SECTION 10 8** **Case studies describing hazardous material spills.**
- SECTION 11 9** **Risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents.**
Published.
- Risk of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents - Supplement.**
- SECTION 12 10** **Impact of spilled hazardous substances on human life and the marine
environment.**
- SECTION 13 11** **Remote sensing techniques applicable to spilled hazardous substances in
the marine environment.**
- SECTION 14 12** **Guide for marine chemical spills.**