MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT
Ministry Of Maritime Affairs
Government Of Pakistan

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Emergency Response Procedures for Dangerous Goods Incidents

SOP Number:	MMD-SOP-DG-001
Version:	2.0 (PMSA Coordinated)
Issue Date:	June 2025
Effective Date:	July 1, 2026
	Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department *(Operational response coordinated with PMSA per NMDCP)*
Approved by:	Signature: _____ Date: June 2, 2025

Note

The Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), acting under authority granted by the Pakistan Merchant Shipping Ordinance 2001 (Sections 362, 575, and 609), has developed and approved comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures and emergency response coordination with PNRA and PMSA.

MMD-SOP-DG-001: Emergency Response Procedures for Dangerous Goods Incidents - establishes detailed emergency response and medical first aid protocols based on the IMDG Code EmS Guide and MFAG.

1. PURPOSE, SCOPE AND MMD'S REGULATORY ROLE

1.1 Purpose

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) establishes the Mercantile Marine Department's (MMD) regulatory framework and technical advisory role for dangerous goods incidents in Pakistani waters. It defines MMD's responsibilities for regulation, notification, and coordination with operational response agencies.

1.2 Scope

- All incidents involving IMDG Code Classes 1-9 and MHB materials (IMSBC Code)
- Incidents in Pakistani territorial waters, EEZ, or on Pakistani-flagged vessels
- Port-based dangerous goods incidents
- MMD's regulatory activities and coordination responsibilities

1.3 MMD's Regulatory Role (NOT Operational Response)

CRITICAL CLARIFICATION

MMD is a Regulatory Authority, NOT an Operational Responder

The Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) is Pakistan's flag state administration and maritime safety regulatory authority under PMSO 2001.

MMD does NOT maintain operational emergency response capability.

What MMD Does NOT Have:

- Emergency response teams
- Firefighting equipment or HAZMAT gear
- 24/7 operational vessels or aircraft
- Disaster response infrastructure

MMD's Regulatory Role:

- Dangerous goods compliance oversight (IMDG Code, IMSBC Code)
- Pre-shipment approval and inspection
- 24/7 emergency notification receipt
- Technical classification of dangerous goods
- Provision of technical advisors to operational responders
- Coordination with PNRA for Class 7
- International liaison (IMO, flag states)
- Post-incident investigation

1.4 Operational Response Authority: PMSA

OPERATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

PMSA Coordinates All Marine-Based Dangerous Goods Response

For dangerous goods incidents involving ships in Pakistani waters or port areas, operational response is coordinated by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) through the National Marine Disaster Contingency Plan (NMDCP).

PMSA is Pakistan's operational authority for marine emergencies with 24/7 capability, vessels, aircraft, and established coordination with Pakistan Navy, port authorities, and emergency services.

PMSA's Operational Capabilities:

- 24/7 Disaster Response Centre (DRC) at HQ PMSA, Karachi
- PMSA ships, fast boats, and helicopters
- Coordination with Pakistan Navy assets
- Port authority coordination (KPT, PQA, GPA)
- Fire and rescue services coordination
- Medical and health services coordination
- Established NMDCP procedures and training

PMSA Emergency Contact:

PMSA Disaster Response Centre (DRC) 24/7: +92-21-9214624 / 9214625

1.4.1 When PMSA Assumes Operational Command

PMSA DRC assumes operational command for:

- Level 2 (Moderate) dangerous goods incidents requiring external assistance
- Level 3 (Major) dangerous goods incidents with casualties or widespread threat
- All dangerous goods incidents at sea or in port areas
- Marine pollution from dangerous goods spillage

1.4.2 PMSA's Role Per NMDCP

As established in the National Marine Disaster Contingency Plan:

- Activate Disaster Response Centre (DRC)
- Assume incident command and control
- Deploy PMSA vessels and aircraft
- Coordinate with Pakistan Navy, port authorities, fire services
- Request MMD technical advisor for dangerous goods expertise
- Request PNRA support for Class 7 (radioactive) incidents
- Manage on-scene operations and safety
- Control communications and reporting

1.5 MMD-PMSA Coordination Framework

MMD Role	PMSA Role
Receive incident notification (24/7)	Stand by for MMD notification
Classify dangerous goods (IMDG Code)	Prepare response assets
Assess severity (Level 1/2/3)	Assess operational requirements
Notify PMSA DRC immediately (Level 2/3)	**Activate DRC and assume command**
Provide EmS schedule and technical data	Deploy vessels, coordinate Navy/ports
Deploy technical advisor to PMSA DRC	Integrate MMD advisor into command
Provide IMDG Code expertise	**Manage all operational activities**

2. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

2.1 National Legislation

- Pakistan Merchant Shipping Ordinance 2001 (Sections 362, 575, 609)
- Pakistan Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Hazardous and Dangerous Substances by Ships) Rules, 2009

2.2 International Conventions

- SOLAS 1974, Chapter VII - Carriage of Dangerous Goods
- IMDG Code (current edition)
- IMSBC Code (current edition)
- EmS Guide - Emergency Response Procedures
- MFAG - Medical First Aid Guide

2.3 National Response Plans

- National Marine Disaster Contingency Plan (NMDCP) - PMSA coordinates operational response
- National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) - Optional coordination for catastrophic incidents

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Key Terms

Term	Definition
Dangerous Goods	Any cargo or material classified under IMDG Code Classes 1-9 or Materials Hazardous only when carried in Bulk (MHB) under IMSBC Code
Incident	Any event involving dangerous goods that results in or may result in fire, explosion, leakage, spillage, personnel exposure, environmental pollution, or other hazardous condition
Emergency Response Coordinator	The designated MMD officer responsible for coordinating all emergency response activities for dangerous goods incidents
PASREPS	Pakistan Ship Reporting System established under Rule 5 of the 2009 Rules
MMD	Mercantile Marine Department, Ministry of Maritime Affairs
PMSA	Pakistan Maritime Security Agency
EmS Guide	Emergency Response Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods published by IMO
MFAG	Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods published by IMO

4. MMD REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Pre-Incident Activities

- Pre-shipment approval
- Port State Control inspections
- Flag state inspections
- IMDG Code compliance verification

4.2 Notification and Classification

MMD 24/7 Emergency Contact: [+92 21 99214652]

- Receive dangerous goods incident notifications
- Classify dangerous goods involved (IMDG Class, UN number)
- Assess incident severity (Level 1/2/3)
- Identify applicable EmS schedule

4.3 Coordination with PMSA

- Notify PMSA DRC for Level 2 and Level 3 incidents
- Provide PMSA with DG classification and EmS reference
- Deploy technical advisor to PMSA DRC
- Support PMSA operational command with IMDG Code expertise

5. INCIDENT SEVERITY AND PMSA NOTIFICATION

5.1 Incident Severity Levels

Level	Criteria	Action
Level 1 (Minor)	Small spill/leak, no injuries, ship handles with own resources	MMD monitors. No PMSA notification required.
Level 2 (Moderate)	Significant incident, external assistance required, injuries possible	**MMD notifies PMSA DRC immediately.** PMSA activates response per NMDCP.
Level 3 (Major)	Major fire/explosion, multiple casualties, widespread threat, public danger	**MMD notifies PMSA DRC immediately.** PMSA assumes full command per NMDCP. International assistance may be requested.

5.2 Information to Provide PMSA

When notifying PMSA DRC, MMD provides:

- Vessel name, flag, position, IMO number
- Dangerous goods: Class, UN number, proper shipping name, quantity
- Nature of incident (fire, leak, explosion, exposure)
- Casualties (number and condition)
- EmS schedule reference (e.g., F-E, S-D)
- Immediate hazards and recommended actions
- MMD technical advisor availability

5.3 PMSA Operational Response

Upon notification from MMD, PMSA conducts operational response per NMDCP:

- Activates Disaster Response Centre (DRC)
- Assumes incident command and control
- Deploys PMSA vessels and aircraft
- Coordinates Pakistan Navy, port authorities, fire/medical services
- Integrates MMD technical advisor
- Requests PNRA support for Class 7 incidents
- Manages on-scene operations
- Controls public information

NOTE:
All operational response procedures are documented in PMSA's National Marine Disaster Contingency Plan (NMDCP). MMD provides technical expertise only.

5.4 MMD Technical Advisory Role

When PMSA assumes operational command, MMD provides:

5.4.1 Technical Advisor Deployment

- MMD designates qualified DG technical advisor
- Advisor reports to PMSA DRC
- Advisor embedded in PMSA command structure

5.4.2 Technical Support Provided

- IMDG Code and IMSBC Code interpretation
- EmS Guide procedures for specific DG involved
- MFAG medical guidance for DG exposure
- Segregation and compatibility advice
- Coordination with PNRA for Class 7
- International liaison (IMO, flag states)

5.4.3 What MMD Does NOT Do

- Does NOT command operations (PMSA commands)
- Does NOT direct resource deployment (PMSA directs)
- Does NOT conduct firefighting/rescue (PMSA teams)

6. CLASS 7 COORDINATION

For Class 7 (radioactive materials) incidents, MMD makes DUAL notification:

- PMSA DRC - for operational response
- PNRA Emergency Team - for radiation safety

PNRA Contact: +92 51 926 3001-6] 24/7

See MMD-SOP-DG-004 for detailed Class 7 procedures.

7. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Agency	24/7 Contact
MMD Emergency Duty Officer	+92 21 99214652
PMSA Disaster Response Centre	+92 21-9214624 / 9214625
PNRA Emergency (Class 7 only)	+92 51 926 3001-6