Section 8

Test procedures for cargoes which may liquefy

8.1 General

For a group A cargo, the actual moisture content and transportable moisture limit shall be determined in accordance with a procedure determined by the appropriate authority as required by 4.1.4 of this Code.

8.2 Test procedures for measurement of moisture content

There are recognized international and national methods for determining moisture content for various materials. Reference is made to 1.1.4.4 of appendix 2.

8.3 Methods for determining transportable moisture limit

The recommended methods for determining transportable moisture limit are given in appendix 2.

8.4 Complementary test procedure for determining the possibility of liquefaction

8.4.1 A ship's master may carry out a check test for approximately determining the possibility of flow on board ship or at the dockside by the following auxiliary method:

Half fill a cylindrical can or similar container (0.5 to 1 L capacity) with a sample of the material. Take the can in one hand and bring it down sharply to strike a hard surface such as a solid table from a height of about 0.2 m. Repeat the procedure 25 times at one- or two-second intervals. Examine the surface for free moisture or fluid conditions. If free moisture or a fluid condition appears, arrangements should be made to have additional laboratory tests conducted on the material before it is accepted for loading.

8.4.2 If samples remain dry following a can test, the moisture content of the material may still exceed the transportable moisture limit (TML).