

### **Soya Bean Meal Guideline:**

Soybean meal is a protein-rich solid residue remaining after the extraction of oil from whole soybeans. It is one of the most important agricultural bulk commodities traded worldwide and is primarily used as a protein source in animal feed production.

According to Part 3, Chapter 3.3 of the IMDG Code, soya bean meal transported as Seed Cake under UN 2217, which has undergone solvent extraction and possesses sufficiently low oil and moisture content, may be exempt from the provisions of the IMDG Code if it complies with Special Provision 142.

This exemption requires an accompanying certificate from the shipper indicating the oil content does not exceed 1.5% and the moisture content does not exceed 11% and confirming that the soya bean meal is substantially free from flammable solvents.

Grains and oilseeds, such as soya beans, are regulated by the International Code for the Safe Carriage of Grain in Bulk (International Grain Code) instead of the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code. However, processed products such as soybean meal (SBM) would fall under the individual schedule of SEEDCAKE of the IMSBC Code, whereby it would be the shipper's obligation to provide a cargo declaration form per section 4.2 of the Code.

In addition, it is important to highlight that Cargo Declaration(s) for SBM cargoes must be issued by shippers' cargo controlling company(ies) in line with the amendments to the ISMBC Code valid as from 01 January 2021 and presented to vessel's Master prior to/upon berthing.

In this respect, please note that the Shippers' Cargo Declarations must contain the following details:

- If it is solvent extracted or mechanically expelled.
- If solvent extracted it is substantially free from flammable solvents.
- Has been tested as per section 9.2.2 of the Code and proven not to be a IMDG Class 4.2 cargo.

- Has been tested as per section 9.2.3.3 of the Code and is not MHB (SH).
- That the cargo has been tested and meets the requirements for exemption of UN1386(b) and UN2217 (laboratory test results).
- The actual oil and moisture content of the cargo, not the contracted specification (laboratory test results).
- That the cargo is one of the following: Rape seed meal, rape seed pellets, soya bean meal, cotton seed meal and sunflower seed meal containing not more than 4% oil and 15% oil and moisture combined.
- Bulk Cargo Shipping Name (BCSN): "Seedcakes and other residues of processed oily vegetables", or, in case there is no approved BCSN, the IMSBC Section 1.3.2 requires the confirmation from the relevant Brazilian competent Authority by means of a Certificate if the cargo has no approved BCSN.

Loading of Soya Bean Meal at the Port of Paranaguá:



Photo by Claudio Neves/Portos do Parana

There are several preventive measures that Shipowners and Masters can adopt to mitigate the risks of cargo loss. It is recommended that the vessel's crew:

- A.** To collect 3 (three) samples of cargo from each hold (bottom, middle and top), properly identified, including date and time.
- B.** To observe the presence of foreign matters (impurities) that can be detrimental for the cargo.
- C.** To prepare and maintain, during whole sea passage, a detailed holds ventilation program according to vessel's SMS Manual.