



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

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STATUS OF THE 2010 HNS CONVENTION

Note by the Secretariat

Summary:	This document provides an update on the current status of the 2010 HNS Convention and the recent activities undertaken by the 1992 Fund Secretariat relating to the preparations for its entry into force.
Action to be taken:	<u>1992 Fund Assembly</u> Information to be noted.

1 Introduction

This document provides an update on the progress being made towards entry into force of the Protocol of 2010 to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (2010 HNS Convention) as well as the work carried out by the 1992 Fund Secretariat since the last session of the IOPC Funds governing bodies in November 2024^{<1>}.

2 Progress towards entry into force of the 2010 HNS Convention

- 2.1 The 2010 HNS Convention will enter into force 18 months after the date on which it is ratified by at least twelve States, including four States each with not less than 2 million units of gross tonnage, and having received during the preceding calendar year a total quantity of at least 40 million tonnes of cargo that would be contributing to the general account. Further information regarding what constitutes contributing cargo and the different types of accounts can be found at www.hnsconvention.org.
- 2.2 As at 4 March 2025 there are eight Contracting States to the 2010 HNS Convention, namely Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Norway, Slovakia, South Africa and Türkiye.
- 2.3 As reported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in IMO circular HNS.2/Circ.14 in July 2024, five of the current Contracting States have more than 2 million units of gross tonnage. In total the eight Contracting States reported receiving in 2023 over 19.2 million tonnes of cargo which would contribute to the general account.

<1> Once the 2010 HNS Protocol enters into force, the 1996 Convention, as amended by the 2010 Protocol, will be called: 'the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 2010 (2010 HNS Convention)'.

2.4 At the November 2024 meeting of IOPC Funds' governing bodies, the delegations of Belgium, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Sweden announced their plan to simultaneously ratify the 2010 HNS Convention in the summer of 2025 (see document [IOPC/NOV24/8/2/2](#)). Should this happen, then the conditions necessary to trigger the entry into force of the Convention would be met and it would enter into force 18 months later. In anticipation of this development, and consistent with Resolution 1 of the International Conference on the revision of the HNS Convention, which adopted the 2010 HNS Protocol, the 1992 Fund Secretariat is working internally and with relevant partners to prepare for the first session of the HNS Fund Assembly and to lay the groundwork to ensure that the HNS Fund will be fully operational from its creation.

3 HNS Project Manager

In December 2024, the 1992 Fund Secretariat welcomed the arrival of the new HNS Project Manager who will lead and direct all HNS activities at the IOPC Funds and work with Member States, industry and interested organisations to support the entry into force of the Convention. This position creates a focal point and extra capacity within the 1992 Fund Secretariat to carry out the tasks necessary to support the successful entry into force of the Convention and creation of the HNS Fund.

4 The HNS website and additional tools

4.1 The 1992 Fund Secretariat continues to update and maintain the website www.hnsconvention.org which is an important tool for accessing information related to the 2010 HNS Convention and its progress towards entry into force. It also hosts the HNS Finder and further information regarding reporting and practical implementation of the Convention.

4.2 The HNS Finder

The HNS Finder is an online database that allows users to search the list of all HNS as defined by the 2010 HNS Convention. It provides information on HNS classification criteria and verifies whether a substance qualifies as contributing cargo. Users can also obtain information on which accounts the contributing substances belong to. It has been in operation since 2011 and has been updated annually by the 1992 Fund Secretariat. The most recent update of the list (version 14, with HNS data from 2023 reports) was uploaded on 18 June 2024 and can be found under the HNS Finder section of the website. Version 15 reflecting 2024 data, should be released well before the annual deadline of 31 May 2025 for States to submit their 2024 contributing cargo reports to IMO and should assist in the completion of those reports.

4.3 Online HNS reporting system

4.3.1 One of the key tasks included in the action plan being followed by the 1992 Fund Secretariat is the development of an HNS reporting system, similar to the system developed for oil reporting used by the IOPC Funds.

4.3.2 Following a discovery exercise completed in 2024 and reported on at the November 2024 meeting of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies (see document [IOPC/NOV24/8/2](#)), the 1992 Fund Secretariat has contracted a software company to develop an HNS reporting platform based on the different reporting options set out in the Convention. Work on the project is expected to be completed by early autumn 2025 so that the platform may be tested by Contracting States to the HNS Convention later this year.

5 Development of a draft 2010 HNS Convention Claims Manual

5.1 The 1992 Fund Secretariat has been working with a number of relevant organisations, namely IMO, Cedre, the International Chamber of Shipping, the International Group of P&I Associations and ITOPF, to develop a draft 2010 HNS Convention Claims Manual.

- 5.2 A working group with representatives from these organisations has met on several occasions since the November 2024 meeting of the governing bodies and is close to finalising the draft text of the Claims Manual. The manual will be presented for adoption to the first HNS Fund Assembly.

6 Outreach activities and technical assistance

- 6.1 Since the November 2024 meeting of the governing bodies, the 1992 Fund Secretariat has continued to take opportunities to promote the entry into force of the 2010 HNS Convention, to engage with interested States and other key stakeholders, and to share information with industry representatives through the delivery of various workshops or other training and outreach activities, often in close cooperation with the IMO Secretariat.

- 6.2 The Director and HNS Project Manager delivered a seminar on the 2010 HNS Convention to officials from various government agencies in Singapore in January 2025. The HNS Project Manager also delivered a series of presentations to assist the Philippines in acceding to the 2010 HNS Convention as part of an IMO-led workshop on the international civil liability and compensation regime in Manila, the Philippines in January 2025.

- 6.3 As part of the IOPC Funds' series of webinars on the various aspects of the international liability and compensation regime, two webinars dedicated to the subject of the 2010 HNS Convention are scheduled for March and May 2025. The HNS Project Manager is also scheduled to speak about the 2010 HNS Convention as part of the 2025 edition of the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) short course on the Law of Ports, the Interspill meeting in London, the United Kingdom, in April 2025 and the Comité Maritime International Colloquium in Tokyo, Japan, in May 2025. Other members of the 1992 Fund Secretariat have included information about the 2010 HNS Convention as part of their presentations at a workshop in Brunei Darussalam, and for students from various universities visiting the Funds' offices.

6.4 Support available

States are encouraged to consider holding online workshops with their relevant stakeholders for the purpose of highlighting to a wide audience the value of the 2010 HNS Convention, as well as explaining how to prepare HNS contributing cargo reports. The 1992 Fund Secretariat remains available to support such activities. The 1992 Fund Secretariat is also available to assist States considering ratifying or acceding to the Convention.

7 Action to be taken

1992 Fund Assembly

The 1992 Fund Assembly is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.
