



## Frequently Asked Questions – HNS Convention

### **What is understood by “agent”?**

Agents are the first receivers of HNS substances following transport by sea, the terminals, storage and transshipment companies.

### **What is understood by “principal”?**

Principals are the (industrial) end users of the HNS substances. Some first receivers may also be the end users of the HNS substances. In such cases, the company is regarded as the principal (the (industrial) end user) with respect to the HNS substances concerned.

### **Can a company be both an “agent” and a “principal”?**

Yes, it is possible for a company to be both an agent and a principal. For example: a company receives LNG and LPG. The company is the (industrial) end user of LNG. Consequently, with respect to LNG, this company is the principal, whereas it is the agent with respect to LPG.

### **Must agents refer to principals?**

Agents are free to refer to principals. The choice is up to the agents themselves. Referring to principals is allowed but not required. Agents may also choose to report and pay everything themselves.

### **Does the HNS Convention apply when a company is not the owner of the HNS substances?**

Yes, the HNS Convention applies to receivers of HNS substances, divided into agents and principals – the first receivers and the (industrial) end users. Ownership of the HNS substances is irrelevant with respect to the HNS Convention, as is the country of residence of the owner of the HNS substances.

### **Does the HNS Convention apply if a company does not receive the HNS substances directly from seagoing vessels?**

Yes, the HNS Convention also applies to HNS substances arriving by sea that are subsequently transported via other modes of transport (such as inland vessels, by road, by rail or by pipelines).

### **Does the HNS Convention apply if the company is processing the HNS substances?**

The HNS Convention only applies to the first receipt of any product. For example: a plant receives crude oil, which is subsequently used as a raw material for other products. The crude oil received falls under the HNS Convention; the products made from the crude oil do not.

### **What substances are covered by the HNS Convention?**

The [HNS Finder](#) is used to determine whether substances fall under the HNS Convention. The HNS Finder lists all the substances covered by the HNS Convention.

### **How does the HNS Finder work?**

The HNS Finder operates in English. More information and an explanation of how to search for substances in the HNS Finder is provided in the “Finder Overview” (immediately below the HNS Finder) and in the [Guidance Notes to the HNS Finder](#).

**Does the HNS Finder work with UN numbers?**

Within the HNS Finder, UN numbers are only used in accordance with their product lists as found in the various relevant codes and lists. UN numbers only appear for notifications pertaining to packaged goods or bulk goods whose codes or lists refer to UN numbers.

When searching for a substance in the HNS Finder, caution needs to be exercised with respect to using UN numbers that may be used in regulations not covered by the stipulations of the HNS Convention. This pertains to, inter alia, the ADN Convention, which governs inland shipping.

See the Explanatory Notes, Chapter 2 "HNS substances" for more information.

**Can the HNS Finder be downloaded as a file?**

Search results or the entire database (for the latter, the search field must be left blank) can be downloaded from the results page as a CSV file by clicking on the orange "search current data" button and subsequently on the black "save search results as .csv" button. Please note that the HNS Finder is regularly updated, as a result of which a downloaded file may not be up to date.

**When are contributions due?**

The HNS Convention operates on a debt fund basis. Payment is only due following an incident exceeding the threshold value. To cover administrative costs, an additional levy of EUR 0.01 per tonne will be charged once the Convention has entered into force.

**Is a bulk container considered as packaged or bulk?**

Bulk containers are considered as packaged goods and therefore don't need to be reported. Bulk means: directly into a ship, without any type of packaging.

**Does the HNS Finder work with GN Codes?**

No, the HNS Finder does not work with GN Codes and will therefore not provide any results.

**Does the HNS Finder work with commercial names of substances?**

Like UN numbers, commercial names are only used in accordance with their product lists as found in the various relevant codes and lists. Commercial names only appear if this is the name that is used in said relevant codes and lists.

**Is it possible to determine the relevant product name for the HNS Finder based on the commercial name of substances?**

Unfortunately, there is no official way to link the relevant product names for the HNS Finder to the commercial names of substances. For products with a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) the relevant product name for the HNS Finder may be found in the SDS.

The SDS may contain multiple names: product name, commercial name, chemical name and synonyms. Please see section 1 (product information) in the SDS. If multiple names are shown, then please try all names in the HNS Finder.

Please note: if the alternative name does not provide any results it does not automatically mean that it is not an HNS substance.

The SDS can also indicate under which name the substance is transported according to the different codes and lists, if applicable. Please see section 14 (transport information) in the SDS. If a name is shown according to one of the relevant codes and lists, then please try this name in the HNS Finder. If the HNS Finder does not give a result, it is not an HNS substance.

Please note: the conclusion that it is not an HNS substance may only be drawn if the shown code or list is relevant to the HNS Convention: the HNS Convention refers to groups. Please see chapter 2 of the explanatory notes to the HNS Convention reporting form for the groups.