

9 December 1998

## **TO ALL MEMBERS**

Dear Sirs

### **CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE (HYDRATED) - UN 2880**

As a result of a recent casualty, doubts have been raised concerning recommendations contained in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, page 5138, regarding the stowage of this cargo.

The Code indicates that the cargo should be stowed "away from sources of heat where temperatures in excess of 55°C for a period of 24 hours or more will be encountered".

However preliminary research, undertaken following the recent casualty, indicates that **the chemical may begin an uncontrolled reaction at a temperature considerably lower than 55°C**. Consulting chemists undertaking the research believe that, in certain environmental conditions, the critical temperature could even be reached within vessel holds. Cargo on deck could also reach the critical temperature, particularly if the packaging or containers are exposed to direct sunlight.

It is understood that research work is continuing, but in the meantime Members should be aware that the stowage recommendations contained in the Dangerous Goods Code may not be reliable.

Yours faithfully  
A BILBROUGH & CO LTD  
(MANAGERS)