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**Marine Guidance (4 /2019)**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVAL OF SEWAGE  
SYSTEM AND RATE OF DISCHARGE ACCORDING TO MARPOL ANNEX IV**

**Applicable to : Recognized Organizations, Flag State Surveyor, Shipowners,  
Managers, Operators, Masters and Officers of Myanmar-  
Registered Ships**

***Summary***

*This document is the guidance to implement MARPOL Annex IV, prevention of pollution by sewage from ships, for the ships flying with flag of Myanmar. The flag state surveyors and recognized organizations shall use this guidance in the oversight of Myanmar flagged ships.*

**1. Background**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a party to the Protocol of 1978 related to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL 73/78). In particular, Myanmar has signed for the MARPOL Annex IV, on 5 April 2016 which enter into force on 5 July 2016. Annex IV of MARPOL 73/78 regulates sewage pollution from ships. These provisions include equipment and control of discharge for sewage from ships, sewage system and rate of discharge.

**2. Purpose**

This marine guidance is to comply with the provisions of MARPOL Annex IV, in particular to, Regulation 9 Sewage Systems and Regulation 11 Discharge of Sewage , Resolutions MEPC.115(51), MEPC.157(55), MEPC.159(55), MEPC.200(62), MEPC.227(64), MEPC.275(69) and subsequent amendments. This guidance ensures that Myanmar flagged ships engaged in international voyages, in compliance with the Regulation 2 of the MARPOL Annex IV.

**3. Application**

.1 The provisions of this Annex shall apply to the following Myanmar ships engaged in international voyages:

- .1 new ships of 400 gross tonnage and above; and
- .2 new ships of less than 400 gross tonnage which are certified to carry more than 15 persons; and
- .3 existing ships of 400 gross tonnage and above, five years after the date of entry into force of MARPOL Annex IV; and

- .4 existing ships of less than 400 gross tonnage which are certified to carry more than 15 persons, five years after the date of entry into force of MARPOL Annex IV.

.2 Department of Marine Administration (DMA) shall ensure that existing ships, according to subparagraphs 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 of this guidance, the keels of which are laid or which are of a similar stage of construction before 2 October 1983 shall be equipped to discharge sewage in accordance with the requirements of regulation 11 of the Annex.

#### 4. **Enforcement**

The flag state surveyors should verify Myanmar flagged ship's compliance to MARPOL Annex – IV during unscheduled inspection. For Myanmar ships operating strictly on domestic routes, compliance should be verified by Myanmar flag state surveyors during normal scheduled inspections, but an educational outreach and awareness approach is encouraged. However, current enforcement options remain in place for willful and severe violators or repeat offenders.

#### 5. **Limitation**

##### .1 Regulation 9, Sewage systems

Every ship which, in accordance with regulation 2, is required to comply with the provisions of this Annex shall be equipped with one of the following sewage systems:

- .1 a sewage treatment plant which shall be of a type approved by DMA, taking into account the standards and test methods developed by the Organization, or
- .2 a sewage comminuting and disinfecting system approved by DMA. Such system shall be fitted with facilities to the satisfaction of DMA, for the temporary storage of sewage when the ship is less than 3 nautical miles from the nearest land, or
- .3 a holding tank of the capacity to the satisfaction of DMA for the retention of all sewage, having regard to the operation of the ship, the number of persons on board and other relevant factors. The holding tank shall be constructed to the satisfaction of DMA and shall have a means to indicate visually the amount of its contents.

##### .2 Regulation 11, Discharge of sewage

- .1 Subject to the provisions of regulation 3 of this Annex, the discharge of sewage into the sea is prohibited, except when:
  - (a) the ship is discharging comminuted and disinfected sewage using a system approved by DMA, in accordance with regulation 9.1.2 of this Annex, at a distance of more than 3 nautical miles from the nearest land, or sewage which is not comminuted or disinfected, at a distance of more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land, provided that, in any case, the sewage that has been stored in holding tanks, or sewage originating from spaces containing living animals, shall not be discharged instantaneously but at a moderate rate when the ship is en route and proceeding at not less than 4 knots; the rate of discharge shall be approved by DMA based upon standards developed by IMO; or
  - (b) the ship has in operation an approved sewage treatment plant which has been certified by DMA to meet the operational requirements referred to in regulation 9.1.1 of this Annex, and



- (i) the test results of the plant are laid down in the ship's International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate; and
  - (ii) additionally, the effluent shall not produce visible floating solids nor cause discoloration of the surrounding water.
- .2 The provisions of paragraph 5, subparagraph 5.2.1 (a) shall not apply to ships solely operating in Myanmar waters and visiting other flagged ships while they are in these waters and are discharging sewage in accordance with such less stringent requirements as may be obligatory by Myanmar.
- .3 When the sewage is mixed with wastes or waste water covered by other Annexes of MARPOL, the requirements of those Annex shall be complied with in addition to the requirements of this Annex.



Director General  
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