

PSCircular 58

05 December 2012

PREVENTION OF POLLUTION BY GARBAGE FROM SHIPS (MARPOL ANNEX V)

On 1 January 2013 the amendments to MARPOL Annex V relating to the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships will take effect.

The new amendments prohibit the disposal of almost all kinds of garbage at sea with the exemption under specific requirements of food waste, animal carcasses, cargo residues contained in wash water and environmental friendly cleaning agents. For a simplified overview of the new discharge provisions see the attached Annex.

According to the revised MARPOL Annex V shipboard generated garbage is to be grouped in nine categories, which are to be used for record purposes in the Garbage Record Book. The superseded MARPOL Annex V defined only six categories.

The nine categories of shipboard generated garbage are:

- Plastics
- Food wastes
- Domestic Wastes
- Cooking Oil
- Incinerator ashes
- Operational wastes
- Cargo residues
- Animal Carcasses
- Fishing Gear

Checks

1. MARPOL Annex V requires every ship of 100 gross tonnage and above, and every ship certified to carry 15 or more persons, and fixed or floating platforms to carry a **Garbage Management Plan**. Check if the plan is updated in line with the revised MARPOL Annex V;
2. MARPOL Annex V requires every ship of 400 gross tonnage and above, and every ship certified to carry 15 or more persons engaged in

voyages to ports or offshore terminals of another Party, and every fixed or floating platform to be provided with a **Garbage Record Book**. Check if the records in the Garbage Record Book are in line with the revised MARPOL Annex V;

3. MARPOL Annex 5 requires every ship of 12 metres or more in length overall, and fixed or floating platforms to display placards which notify the crew and passengers of the ship's disposal requirements in line with MARPOL. Check if these placards are in place.

More information

1. Resolution MEPC.201 (62): Amendments;
2. Resolution MEPC.219 (63): Guidelines for the implementation of MARPOL Annex V;
3. Resolution MEPC.220 (63): Guidelines for the development of Garbage Management Plans.

**Simplified overview of the discharge provisions of the revised
MARPOL Annex V (resolution MEPC.201(62)) which will enter into force on
1 January 2013**

(for more detailed guidance regarding the respective discharge requirements please refer to the text of
MARPOL Annex V or to the 2012 Guidelines for the Implementation of MARPOL Annex V)

Type of garbage	Ships outside special areas	Ships within special areas	Offshore platforms (more than 12 nm from land) and all ships within 500 m of such platforms
Food waste comminuted or ground	Discharge permitted ≥3 nm from the nearest land, en route and as far as practicable	Discharge permitted ≥12 nm from the nearest land, en route and as far as practicable	Discharge permitted
Food waste not comminuted or ground	Discharge permitted ≥12 nm from the nearest land, en route and as far as practicable	Discharge prohibited	Discharge prohibited
Cargo residues ¹ not contained in wash water	Discharge permitted ≥12 nm from the nearest land, en route and as far as practicable	Discharge prohibited	Discharge prohibited
Cargo residues ¹ contained in wash water		Discharge permitted ≥12 nm from the nearest land, en route, as far as practicable and subject to two additional conditions ²	Discharge prohibited
Cleaning agents and additives ¹ contained in cargo hold wash water	Discharge permitted	Discharge permitted ≥12 nm from the nearest land, en route, as far as practicable and subject to two additional conditions ²	Discharge prohibited
Cleaning agents and additives ¹ in deck and external surfaces wash water		Discharge permitted	Discharge prohibited
Carcasses of animals carried on board as cargo and which died during the voyage	Discharge permitted as far from the nearest land as possible and en route	Discharge prohibited	Discharge prohibited
All other garbage including plastics, synthetic ropes, fishing gear, plastic garbage bags, incinerator ashes, clinkers, cooking oil, floating dunnage, lining and packing materials, paper, rags, glass, metal, bottles, crockery and similar refuse	Discharge prohibited	Discharge prohibited	Discharge prohibited
Mixed garbage	When garbage is mixed with or contaminated by other substances prohibited from discharge or having different discharge requirements, the more stringent requirements shall apply		

¹ These substances must not be harmful to the marine environment.

² According to regulation 6.1.2 of MARPOL Annex V the discharge shall only be allowed if: (a) both the port of departure and the next port of destination are within the special area and the ship will not transit outside the special area between these ports (regulation 6.1.2.2); and (b) if no adequate reception facilities are available at those ports (regulation 6.1.2.3).