



Dienststelle Schiffssicherheit BG Verkehr

ISM-Circular No.: 07/2010

Subject: Prevention of pollution during transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea, Resolution MEPC.186(59)

Rule reference: ISM Code 1.2.3 and Chapter 8 Annex I MARPOL 73/78

Remark: This circular needs to be carried on board of oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage and more on international voyages.

Date: 21.12.2010

This circular shall inform about the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea.

The regulations contained in the new chapter 8 to Annex I of the MARPOL convention apply to oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage and above engaged in the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea (STS operations) and their STS operations conducted on or after 1 April 2012. However, STS operations conducted before that date but after the approval of the Administration of STS operations Plan required under regulation 41.1 of chapter 8 shall be carried out in accordance with the STS operations Plan as far as possible.

Any oil tanker involved in STS operations shall carry on board a Plan prescribing how to conduct STS operations (STS operations Plan) not later than the date of the first annual, intermediate or renewal survey of the ship to be carried out on or after 1 January 2011. Each oil tanker's STS operations Plan shall be approved by the Administration. The Ship Safety Division (Dienststelle Schiffssicherheit) of the BG for Transport and Traffic (BG Verkehr) only approves STS operations plans which already have an approval issued by the classification society (RO). The STS operations Plan shall be written in the working language of the ship.

The STS operations Plan shall be developed taking into account the information contained in the best practice guidelines for STS operations identified by the Organization.¹ The STS operations Plan should be incorporated into the existing Safety Management System of the company.

The person in overall advisory control of STS operations shall be qualified to perform all relevant duties, taking into account the qualifications contained in the best practice guidelines for STS operations identified by the Organization.²

Records³ of STS operations shall be retained on board for three years and be readily available for inspection by a Party of the MARPOL Convention.

^{1, 2} IMO's "Manual on Oil Pollution, Section I, Prevention" as amended, and the ICS and OCIMF "Ship-to-ship Transfer Guide, Petroleum", fourth edition, 2005.

³ Revised Annex I of MARPOL chapters 3 and 4 (resolution MEPC.117(52)); requirements for recording bunkering and oil cargo transfer operations in the Oil Record Book, and any records required by the STS operations Plan.

Further information can be obtained for ships under the German Flag from the Ship Safety Division of the BG for Transport and Traffic, Department Fire Protection and Dangerous Goods.

Further information for foreign flagged ships can be received from the relevant Flag State Administrations or recognized organisations.

Action required:

Companies are requested to take note of the a.m. information regarding the keeping of Oil Record Books and the amendments to Annex I of the MARPOL convention.

Copies of the ISM Circular can be found at our website:

<http://www.bg-verkehr.de/service/downloads/ship-safety-division/ism/overview-ism-circulars-and-ism-info-mails>

Contact:

Dienststelle Schiffssicherheit

BG-Verkehr

Referat ISM/ILO

Telephone: 040 / 36 137-213

Telefax: 040 / 36 137-295

eMail: ism@bg-verkehr.de

www.dienststelle-schiffssicherheit.de