

Handling of Sludge and Bilge Water in Machinery Spaces

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems
Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems

Reason for Amendment

At the 58th Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC58) held in October 2008, an MEPC circular on the Amendment to the Revised Guidelines for Systems for Handling Oily Wastes in Machinery Spaces of Ships was approved as MEPC.1/Circ.642. Accordingly, the rules related to handling of sludge and bilge water in machinery spaces were amended.

In addition, the same committee agreed to revoke the unified interpretation which allowed the sludge tank capacity for ships equipped with sludge reduction measures (e.g. incinerators and homogenizers) to be reduced because the performance standards of such sludge reduction measures were not defined.

At the 59th Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC59) held in July 2009, an amendment to MARPOL Annex I that added definitions of terms related to sludge and bilge water was approved as MEPC.187(59).

Therefore, all relevant requirements have been amended in accordance with MEPC.1/Circ.642 and MEPC.187(59) regarding the handling of sludge and bilge water.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Rules related to the capacity of sludge tanks and bilge tanks have been amended.
- (2) Definition of terms regarding sludge and bilge has been stipulated.