

The Transfer of Oil Cargo between Oil Tankers at Sea (STS operations)

Amended Rules and Guidance

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

Reason for Amendment

In recent years, the IMO has been discussing the introduction of international regulations to prevent environmental damage due to the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea.

As a result, Resolution MEPC.186(59), concerning the addition of a new Chapter 8 which contains requirements related to the prevention of pollution during transfers of oil cargo between oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage and above at sea, was adopted to amend Annex I of MARPOL.

Accordingly, all relevant requirements have been amended in accordance with Resolution MEPC.186(59).

Outline of Amendment

- (1) It has been specified that a STS operations Plan approved by the Society is to be provided on board each oil tanker of 150 gross tonnage and above engaged in the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea (STS operations).
- (2) It has been specified that it is necessary for such a STS operations Plan to be confirmed by the Society at Registration Surveys and at each Periodical Survey.
- (3) It has been specified that all STS operations are to be recorded, and such a record is to be provided on board.
- (4) For oil tankers delivered before 1 January 2011 that are engaged in STS operations, it has been specified that it is to be confirmed at the first Periodical Survey to be carried out on or after 1 January 2011 that a STS operations Plan is provided on board.
- (5) It has been specified that a STS operations Plan is to be issued taking into account the 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.