

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

MARPOL Annex I/12 specifies that sludge tank discharge piping is not to be connected to bilge systems, oily bilge water holding tanks, etc. so as to prevent any mixing of bilge and sludge.

IMO MEPC.1/Circ.753/Rev.1, a unified interpretation on MARPOL Annex I/12, specifies that the above-mentioned requirements need not be applied to ships delivered before 1 January 2014 (hereinafter referred to “existing ships”). However, as a result of the IMO reconsidering the retroactive application to existing ships, amendments to MARPOL Annex I/12 specifying that the said requirements are also to be applied to existing ships and that sludge may be disposed of by onboard incinerators, etc. were adopted as MEPC.266(68) by the IMO at the 68th session of IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC68) held in May 2015.

Accordingly, all relevant requirements were amended based upon MEPC.266(68).

Outline of Amendment

The main details of the amendment are as follows:

- (1) Amended requirements stating that sludge tank discharge piping is not to be connected to bilge systems, oily bilge water holding tanks, etc. to specify that they apply to all ships, including existing ships.
- (2) Specified that piping may be so arranged that sludge may be disposed of by incinerators, etc.
- (3) Specified that for ships at the beginning stage of construction before 1 January 2017, a survey is to be carried out to verify compliance with the requirements referred to in (1) above by the first Special Survey carried out on or that date.

Amended Requirements

Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems Part 3 2.2.2, Table 3-13
Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems Part 2 1.1.3, Part 3 2.2.2