



## Department of Marine Administration - Yangon Myanmar

# Policy for the Implementation of Approval of Sewage System and Rate of Discharge According to MARPOL Annex IV

Operational Procedure : QOP - 72 - 01- (13)

Revision: 0

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## Subj: INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR APPROVAL OF SEWAGE SYSTEMS AND RATE OF DISCHARGE (ACCORDING TO MARPOL ANNEX IV)

Ref: International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from ship (MARPOL), Regulation 9 Sewage Systems & Regulation 11 Discharge of Sewage.

### 1. Purpose

This policy letter provides interim guidance to ensure that, Myanmar and other flag ships engaged in international voyages, in compliance with the Regulation 2 of the Regulation of the Prevention of Pollution of Sewage from ships.

- .1 The provisions of this Annex shall apply to the following ships engaged in international voyages:
  - (i) new ships of 400 gross tonnage and above; and
  - (ii) new ships of less than 400 gross tonnage which are certified to carry more than 15 persons; and
  - (iii) existing ships of 400 gross tonnage and above, five years after the date of entry into force of this Annex; and
  - (iv) existing ships of less than 400 gross tonnage which are certified to carry more than 15 persons, five years after the date of entry into force of this Annex.
- .2 The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall ensure that existing ships, according to subparagraphs 1.3 and 1.4 of this regulation, the keels of which are laid or which are of a similar stage of construction before 2 October 1983 shall be equipped to discharge sewage in accordance with the requirements of regulation 11 of the Annex.

Approved by & date:	Approved by & date:
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## 2. Action

Myanmar flag state Surveyors and recognized Surveyors shall use this interim guidance in the oversight of their respective Myanmar flag and foreign flag ships.

## 3. Directives Affected

July 5, 2016.

## 4. Background

MARPOL ANNEX IV, REGULATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION BY SEWAGE FROM SHIPS. On April 5, 2016, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was signed for the MARPOL Annex (IV) & (V) and enters into force on July 5, 2016.

## 5. Enforcement

Myanmar flag state officers should verify a foreign flag ship's compliance with MARPOL Annex – IV during normally scheduled inspection. For Myanmar ships operating strictly on domestic routes, compliance should be verified by Myanmar Flag state Surveyors during normally scheduled inspections, but an educational outreach and awareness approach is encouraged. However, current enforcement options remain in place for willful and egregious violators or repeat offenders.

## 6. Limitation

### *Regulation 9*

#### **Sewage systems**

Every ship which, in accordance with regulation 2, is required to comply with the provisions of this Annex shall be equipped with one of the following sewage systems:

- .1 a sewage treatment plant which shall be of a type approved by the Administration, taking into account the standards and test methods developed by the Organization, or
- .2 a sewage comminuting and disinfecting system approved by the Administration. Such system shall be fitted with facilities to the satisfaction of the Administration, for the temporary storage of sewage when the ship is less than 3 nautical miles from the nearest land, or
- .3 a holding tank of the capacity to the satisfaction of the Administration for the retention of all sewage, having regard to the operation of the ship, the number of persons on board and other relevant factors. The holding tank shall be constructed to

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the satisfaction of the Administration and shall have a means to indicate visually the amount of its contents.

## ***Regulation 11***

### ***Discharge of sewage***

- .1 Subject to the provisions of regulation 3 of this Annex, the discharge of sewage into the sea is prohibited, except when:
  - (a) the ship is discharging comminuted and disinfected sewage using a system approved by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in accordance with regulation 9.1.2 of this Annex, at a distance of more than 3 nautical miles from the nearest land, or sewage which is not comminuted or disinfected, at a distance of more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land, provided that, in any case, the sewage that has been stored in holding tanks, or sewage originating from spaces containing living animals, shall not be discharged instantaneously but at a moderate rate when the ship is en route and proceeding at not less than 4 knots; the rate of discharge shall be approved by the Administration based upon standards developed by the Organization; or
  - (b) the ship has in operation an approved sewage treatment plant which has been certified by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to meet the operational requirements referred to in regulation 9.1.1 of this Annex, and
    - (i) the test results of the plant are laid down in the ship's International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate; and
    - (ii) additionally, the effluent shall not produce visible floating solids nor cause discoloration of the surrounding water.
- .2 The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to ships operating in the waters under the jurisdiction of a State and visiting ships from other States while they are in these waters and are discharging sewage in accordance with such less stringent requirements as may be imposed by such State.
- .3 When the sewage is mixed with wastes or waste water covered by other Annexes of MARPOL, the requirements of those Annex