

Annex IV of MARPOL 73/78

*Regulations for the Prevention
of Pollution by Sewage
from Ships*

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Regulation 1

Definitions

For the purposes of the present Annex:

- (1) *New ship* means a ship:
 - (a) for which the building contract is placed, or in the absence of a building contract, the keel of which is laid, or which is at a similar stage of construction, on or after the date of entry into force of this Annex; or
 - (b) the delivery of which is three years or more after the date of entry into force of this Annex.
- (2) *Existing ship* means a ship which is not a new ship.
- (3) *Sewage* means:
 - (a) drainage and other wastes from any form of toilets, urinals, and WC scuppers;
 - (b) drainage from medical premises (dispensary, sick bay, etc.) via wash basins, wash tubs and scuppers located in such premises;
 - (c) drainage from spaces containing living animals; or
 - (d) other waste waters when mixed with the drainages defined above.
- (4) *Holding tank* means a tank used for the collection and storage of sewage.
- (5) *Nearest land*. The term “from the nearest land” means from the baseline from which the territorial sea of the territory in question is established in accordance with international law except that, for the purposes of the present Convention, “from the nearest land” off the

* On the publication date of the 1997 Consolidated Edition, Annex IV had not met the conditions of entry into force. This Annex is under revision by the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the Organization.

north-eastern coast of Australia shall mean from a line drawn from a point on the coast of Australia in

latitude 11°00' S, longitude 142°08' E
to a point in latitude 10°35' S, longitude 141°55' E
thence to a point latitude 10°00' S, longitude 142°00' E
thence to a point latitude 9°10' S, longitude 143°52' E
thence to a point latitude 9°00' S, longitude 144°30' E
thence to a point latitude 13°00' S, longitude 144°00' E
thence to a point latitude 15°00' S, longitude 146°00' E
thence to a point latitude 18°00' S, longitude 147°00' E
thence to a point latitude 21°00' S, longitude 153°00' E
thence to a point on the coast of Australia in
latitude 24°42' S, longitude 153°15' E.

Regulation 2

Application

The provisions of this Annex shall apply to:

- (a) (i) new ships of 200 tons gross tonnage and above;
- (ii) new ships of less than 200 tons gross tonnage which are certified to carry more than 10 persons;
- (iii) new ships which do not have a measured gross tonnage and are certified to carry more than 10 persons; and
- (b) (i) existing ships of 200 tons gross tonnage and above, 10 years after the date of entry into force of this Annex;
- (ii) existing ships of less than 200 tons gross tonnage which are certified to carry more than 10 persons, 10 years after the date of entry into force of this Annex; and
- (iii) existing ships which do not have a measured gross tonnage and are certified to carry more than 10 persons, 10 years after the date of entry into force of this Annex.

Regulation 3

Surveys

- (1) Every ship which is required to comply with the provisions of this Annex and which is engaged in voyages to ports or offshore terminals under the jurisdiction of other Parties to the Convention shall be subject to the surveys specified below:
 - (a) An initial survey before the ship is put in service or before the certificate required under regulation 4 of this Annex is issued for the first time, which shall include a survey of the ship which shall be such as to ensure:

- (i) when the ship is fitted with a sewage treatment plant the plant shall meet operational requirements based on standards and the test methods developed by the Organization;*
- (ii) when the ship is fitted with a system to comminute and disinfect the sewage, such a system shall be of a type approved by the Administration;
- (iii) when the ship is equipped with a holding tank the capacity of such tank shall be 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 have a means to indicate visually the amount of its contents; and
- (iv) that the ship is equipped with a pipeline leading to the exterior convenient for the discharge of sewage to a reception facility and that such a pipeline is fitted with a standard shore connection in compliance with regulation 11 of this Annex.

This survey shall be such as to ensure that the equipment, fittings, arrangements and material fully comply with the applicable requirements of this Annex.

- (b) Periodical surveys at intervals specified by the Administration but not exceeding five years which shall be such as to ensure that the equipment, fittings, arrangements and material fully comply with the applicable requirements of this Annex. However, where the duration of the International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (1973) is extended as specified in regulation 7(2) or (4) of this Annex, the interval of the periodical survey may be extended correspondingly.
- (2) The Administration shall establish appropriate measures for ships which are not subject to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this regulation in order to ensure that the provisions of this Annex are complied with.
 - (3) Surveys of the ship as regards enforcement of the provisions of this Annex shall be carried out by officers of the Administration. The Administration may, however, entrust the surveys either to surveyors nominated for the purpose or to organizations recognized by it. In every case the Administration concerned fully guarantees the completeness and efficiency of the surveys.

* Refer to the Recommendation on international effluent standards and guidelines for performance tests for sewage treatment plants adopted by the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the Organization by resolution MEPC.2(VI); see IMO sales publication IMO-592E.

- (4) After any survey of the ship under this regulation has been completed, no significant change shall be made in the equipment, fittings, arrangements, or material covered by the survey without the approval of the Administration, except the direct replacement of such equipment or fittings.

Regulation 4

Issue of certificate

- (1) An International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (1973) shall be issued, after survey in accordance with the provisions of regulation 3 of this Annex, to any ship which is engaged in voyages to ports or offshore terminals under the jurisdiction of other Parties to the Convention.
- (2) Such certificate shall be issued either by the Administration or by any persons or organization duly authorized by it. In every case the Administration assumes full responsibility for the certificate.

Regulation 5

Issue of a certificate by another Government

- (1) The Government of a Party to the Convention may, at the request of the Administration, cause a ship to be surveyed and, if satisfied that the provisions of this Annex are complied with, shall issue or authorize the issue of an International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (1973) to the ship in accordance with this Annex.
- (2) A copy of the certificate and a copy of the survey report shall be transmitted as early as possible to the Administration requesting the survey.
- (3) A certificate so issued shall contain a statement to the effect that it has been issued at the request of the Administration and it shall have the same force and receive the same recognition as the certificate issued under regulation 4 of this Annex.
- (4) No International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (1973) shall be issued to a ship which is entitled to fly the flag of a State which is not a Party.

Regulation 6

Form of certificate

The International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (1973) shall be drawn up in an official language of the issuing country in the form corresponding to the model given in the appendix to this Annex. If the

language used is neither English nor French, the text shall include a translation into one of these languages.

Regulation 7

Duration of certificate

- (1) The International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (1973) shall be issued for a period specified by the Administration, which shall not exceed five years from the date of issue, except as provided in paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of this regulation.
- (2) If a ship at the time when the certificate expires is not in a port or offshore terminal under the jurisdiction of the Party to the Convention whose flag the ship is entitled to fly, the certificate may be extended by the Administration, but such extension shall be granted only for the purpose of allowing the ship to complete its voyage to the State whose flag the ship is entitled to fly or in which it is to be surveyed and then only in cases where it appears proper and reasonable to do so.
- (3) No certificate shall be thus extended for a period longer than five months and a ship to which such extension is granted shall not on its arrival in the State whose flag it is entitled to fly or the port in which it is to be surveyed, be entitled by virtue of such extension to leave that port or State without having obtained a new certificate.
- (4) A certificate which has not been extended under the provisions of paragraph (2) of this regulation may be extended by the Administration for a period of grace of up to one month from the date of expiry stated on it.
- (5) A certificate shall cease to be valid if significant alterations have taken place in the equipment, fittings, arrangement or material required without the approval of the Administration, except the direct replacement of such equipment or fittings.
- (6) A certificate issued to a ship shall cease to be valid upon transfer of such a ship to the flag of another State, except as provided in paragraph (7) of this regulation.
- (7) Upon transfer of a ship to the flag of another Party, the certificate shall remain in force for a period not exceeding five months provided that it would not have expired before the end of that period, or until the Administration issues a replacement certificate, whichever is earlier. As soon as possible after the transfer has taken place the Government of the Party whose flag the ship was formerly entitled to fly shall transmit to the Administration a copy of the certificate carried by the ship before the transfer and, if available, a copy of the relevant survey report.

Regulation 8

Discharge of sewage

- (1) Subject to the provisions of regulation 9 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 Administration in accordance with regulation 3(1)(a) at a distance of more than 4 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 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 Administration to meet the operational requirements referred to in regulation 3(1)(a)(i) of this Annex, and
 - (i) the test results of the plant are laid down in the ship's International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (1973);
 - (ii) additionally, the effluent shall not produce visible floating solids in, nor cause discoloration of, the surrounding water; or
 - (c) the ship is situated in the waters under the jurisdiction of a State and is discharging sewage in accordance with such less stringent requirements as may be imposed by such State.
- (2) When the sewage is mixed with wastes or waste water having different discharge requirements, the more stringent requirements shall apply.

Regulation 9

Exceptions

Regulation 8 of this Annex shall not apply to:

- (a) the discharge of sewage from a ship necessary for the purpose of securing the safety of a ship and those on board or saving life at sea; or
- (b) the discharge of sewage resulting from damage to a ship or its equipment if all reasonable precautions have been taken before and after the occurrence of the damage, for the purpose of preventing or minimizing the discharge.

Regulation 10*Reception facilities*

- (1) The Government of each Party to the Convention undertakes to ensure the provision of facilities at ports and terminals for the reception of sewage, without causing undue delay to ships, adequate to meet the needs of the ships using them.
- (2) The Government of each Party shall notify the Organization for transmission to the Contracting Governments concerned of all cases where the facilities provided under this regulation are alleged to be inadequate.

Regulation 11*Standard discharge connections*

To enable pipes of reception facilities to be connected with the ship's discharge pipeline, both lines shall be fitted with a standard discharge connection in accordance with the following table:

Standard dimensions of flanges for discharge connections

<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimension</i>
Outside diameter	210 mm
Inner diameter	According to pipe outside diameter
Bolt circle diameter	170 mm
Slots in flange	4 holes 18 mm in diameter equidistantly placed on a bolt circle of the above diameter, slotted to the flange periphery. The slot width to be 18 mm
Flange thickness	16 mm
Bolts and nuts: quantity and diameter	4, each of 16 mm in diameter and of suitable length
The flange is designed to accept pipes up to a maximum internal diameter of 100 mm and shall be of steel or other equivalent material having a flat face. This flange, together with a suitable gasket, shall be suitable for a service pressure of 6 kg/cm ²	

For ships having a moulded depth of 5 m and less, the inner diameter of the discharge connection may be 38 mm.

Appendix to Annex IV

Form of Sewage Certificate

INTERNATIONAL SEWAGE POLLUTION PREVENTION CERTIFICATE (1973)

Issued under the Provisions of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, under the authority of the Government of

.....
(full designation of the country)

by.....
(full designation of the competent person or organization authorized under the provisions of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973)

Name of ship	Distinctive number or letters	Port of registry	Gross tonnage	Number of persons which the ship is certified to carry

New/existing ship*

Date of building contract

Date on which keel was laid or ship was at a similar stage of construction

Date of delivery

* Delete as appropriate.

