

Isle of Man Ship Registry Manx Shipping Notice



MARPOL Annex IV

Ref. MSN 069
Issued: 30 Oct 2020

1. Introduction

MARPOL Annex IV provides international requirements to prevent pollution of the marine environment by sewage from ships. It entered into force internationally in 2003; however it has been amended on several occasions since this date. MARPOL Annex IV is applied in Manx Law by the Merchant Shipping (MARPOL Annex IV – Prevention of Pollution by Sewage) Order 2014. This applies Annex IV up to and including MEPC.275(69).

2. Application

The Merchant Shipping (MARPOL Annex IV – Prevention of Pollution by Sewage) Order 2014 applies to:

- Manx ships which are over 400gt or certified to carry more than 15 persons
- Foreign ships in the territorial waters of the Island which are over 400gt or certified to carry more than 15 persons.
- A fixed or floating platform engaged in exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and subsoil within the territorial waters of the Island.

The Order excludes any warship, naval auxiliary or other ship owned or operated by a State and used, for the time being, only on government, non-commercial service.

3. Survey & Certification

All ships to which the Order applies are required to be surveyed and certificated with an International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (ISPP), which shall be valid for a period not exceeding 5 years.

Renewal surveys must be undertaken at intervals not exceeding 5 years except where otherwise permitted by regulation 8.2, 8.5, 8.6 or 8.7 of MARPOL Annex IV.

All MARPOL Annex IV surveys, approvals and issuance of certificates are delegated to the Recognised Organisations stated in MSN 020.

Regulation 8.7 of MARPOL Annex IV states that, in special circumstances, a new ISPP certificate need not be dated 5 years from the date of expiry of the existing ISPP, but may be issued for a period not exceeding five years from the date of renewal survey completion. The Ship Registry has deemed Special Circumstances to be:



- a) where it would appear to be appropriate to alter the start date in order to harmonize the ISPP Certificate with other certificates, or
- b) where the owner of the ship requests the change of date; and
- c) satisfies the Ship Registry that the owner has a justified reason for making the request; and
- d) complies with any additional survey requirements which the Ship Registry may impose

Examples of having a 'justified reason' might include:

- a) where the ship has been laid up for an extended period, or
- b) where the nature of a ship's business would make a different date more convenient (such as is in the case of a vessel constructed in the summer and whose main trade is in the summer)

In the case of a request to change the anniversary date for the sake of convenience, the request will only be considered if such a request has not been made before for the ship in question, and the owner confirms in writing that this is a one off request for that ship.

4. Type Approval

All equipment requiring type approval must be accompanied by a type approval certificate issued by –

- A Recognised Organisation listed in MSN 020; or
- A Recognised Organisation on behalf of a national Administration; or
- The Isle of Man Ship Registry

Equipment which has been certified under the Marine Equipment Directive (MED) is acceptable to be used on Isle of Man registered vessels, although it is not a mandatory requirement for equipment to be certified under the MED.

5. Required Documents

5.1 Approved Rate of Discharge (Regulation 11.1.1)

If a ship is discharging sewage that has been stored in holding tanks or originated from spaces containing living animals, it must be more than 12 miles from the nearest land and proceeding en route at a speed on not less than 4 knots. It must not be discharged instantaneously but at a 'moderate rate' of discharge.

The rate of discharge shall be approved by a Recognised Organisation based upon MEPC.157(55). The ship shall carry a document showing the approved maximum discharge rate of untreated sewage.



6. Special Areas

A summary of Special Areas under MARPOL Annex IV can be found on the [IMO Website](#). A more detailed description including co-ordinates is available in Regulation 1.6 of MARPOL Annex IV.

At the present time, only passenger ships are restricted in their sewage discharges within special areas. Since the Isle of Man does not currently register passenger ships operating outside of the Irish Sea, these Special Areas will not affect any Manx vessel.

7. Sewage Systems

Every ship to which Annex IV applies, shall be equipped with one of the following sewage systems:

- 7.1 A sewage treatment plant which shall be type approved in accordance with paragraph 4 of this notice. Type approval shall be made taking into account the criteria in MEPC.2(VI) if installed prior to 1 January 2010; MEPC.159(55) if installed on or after 1 January 2010 or MEPC.227(64) as amended by MEPC.284(70) if installed on or after 1 January 2016.
- 7.2 A sewage comminuting and disinfecting system which shall be approved by a Recognised Organisation. As there is no international standard for comminuting or disinfection systems, the performance standard for Isle of Man ships shall be as follows:
 - Faecal Coliform Standard: Faecal coliform bacteria in the effluent should not exceed 1000/100 cm³ Most Probable Number (M.P.N.)
 - Chlorine residual level to be no more than 0.5mg/l, (by test) post maceration
 - Comminuting Standard: A sample of 1 litre is passed through a US Sieve No. 12 (with openings of 1.68 mm). The weight of the material retained on the screen after it has been dried to a constant weight in an oven at 103°C must not exceed 10% of the total suspended solids and shall not be more than 50 mg
 - Temporary storage of sewage will be by holding tank and the standard for the capacity and construction of a holding tank is set out in paragraph 7.3 of this notice, and
 - The company should ensure the chlorine residual levels are tested on a regular basis, records of this testing are kept on board and that this testing is included in the ship's operating procedures.

Such system shall be fitted with facilities for the temporary storage of sewage when the ship is less than 3 nautical miles from the nearest land. Temporary storage of sewage will be by holding tank constructed in accordance with paragraph 7.3 of this notice.

- 7.3 A holding tank of a capacity satisfactory to a Recognised Organisation 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 prevent leakage of its contents under the normal operation of the ship and in all likely weather conditions, until such times as it can be discharged in accordance with the MAPROL Annex IV.

8. Polar Code

MARPOL Annex IV applies Chapter 4 of part II-A of the Polar Code which places further restrictions on the discharge of sewage when a vessel is operating in polar waters. Please consult the Polar Code for further details.

9. Inadequate Reception Facilities

The master of a ship, which encounters difficulties in discharging waste to port reception facilities, should report the matter in accordance with MEPC.1/Circ.834/Rev.1. This circular contains a sample format for reporting matters to the flag State and the port State

Reference Material:

- MARPOL Annex IV
- MARPOL Annex IV – Prevention of Pollution by Sewage) Order 2014
- MSN 020 – Recognised Organisation
- MEPC.157(55) – Recommendation on Standards for the Rate of Discharge of Untreated Sewage From Ships
- MEPC.2(VI) – Recommendation of International Effluent Standards and Guidelines for Performance Tests for Sewage Treatment Plants
- MEPC.159(55) - Revised Guidelines on Implementation of Effluent Standards and Performance Tests for Sewage Treatment Plants
- MEPC.227(64) - 2012 Guidelines on Implementation of Effluent Standards And Performance Tests For Sewage Treatment Plants
- MEPC.284(70) - Amendments to the 2012 Guidelines on Implementation of Effluent Standards and Performance Tests for Sewage Treatment Plants (Resolution MEPC.227(64))
- Polar Code
- MEPC.1/Circ.834/Rev.1 – Consolidated Guidance for Port Reception Facility Providers and Users

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from ship to ship. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

