



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 289 of 7th September 2015

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	<b>Amendments to MARPOL Annex I</b>
Reference:	<b>MARPOL</b>

**MEPC 68 adopted the amendments to Regulation 12 of Annex I of the MARPOL Convention, by MEPC.266 (68). The amendments are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2017.**

The amendments have re-structured the provisions of regulation 12 of MARPOL Annex I related to tanks for oil residues (sludge) on the requirements for discharge connections and common piping arrangement to ensure oil residues are properly disposed of.

Oil residue (sludge) may be disposed of directly from the oil residue (sludge) tank(s) to reception facilities through the standard discharge connection referred to in regulation 13, or to any other approved means of disposal of oil residue (sludge), such as an incinerator, auxiliary boiler suitable for burning oil residues (sludge) or other acceptable means which shall be annotated in item 3.2 of the Supplement to IOPP Certificate Form A or B.

**Oil residue (sludge) tank(s) shall be provided and:**

- shall be of adequate capacity, having regard to the type of machinery and length of voyage, to receive the oil residues (sludge) which cannot be dealt with
- shall be provided with a designated pump that is capable of taking suction from the oil residue (sludge) tank(s) for disposal of oil residue (sludge)
- shall have no discharge connections to the bilge system, oily bilge water holding tank(s), tank top or oily water separators, except that:
  - the tank(s) may be fitted with drains, with manually operated self-closing valves and arrangements for subsequent visual monitoring of the settled water, that lead to an oily

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bilge water holding tank or bilge well, or an alternative arrangement, provided such arrangement does not connect directly to the bilge discharge piping system; and

- the sludge tank discharge piping and bilge-water piping may be connected to a common piping leading to the standard discharge connection referred to in regulation 13; the connection of both systems to the possible common piping leading to the standard discharge connection referred to in regulation 13 shall not allow for the transfer of sludge to the bilge system;
- shall not be arranged with any piping that has direct connection overboard, other than the standard discharge connection referred to in regulation 13; and
- shall be designed and constructed so as to facilitate their cleaning and the discharge of residues to reception facilities.

Ships constructed before 1 January 2017 shall be arranged to comply with paragraph 3.3 of this regulation not later than the first renewal survey carried out on or after 1 January 2017.

REFERENCES:

- MEPC.266 (68)

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,  
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