



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 683 of 7^h May 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Lifetime performance of sewage treatment plants
Reference	MARPOL Annex IV

Lifetime performance of sewage treatment plants

Amendments to MARPOL Annex IV have been drafted by the STP commissioning requirements as well as periodic performance evaluations via sampling and testing. New regulations would also require ships equipped with STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) to maintain on board a Sewage Management Plan and a sewage record-keeping book for recording all discharges, incinerators and sampling related to the STP.

Sampling points for the STP effluent would also be required to be fitted to facilitate performance monitoring. A new Appendix II at MARPOL Annex IV would provide testing standards for STP effluent, and a new Appendix III would provide a format of the Sewage Record Book.

Regarding the scope of application of these draft amendments, it was stated the view that any measures which are developed should not require replacement of existing STPs and should not increase the administrative burden of ships' crew. Also was stated that the number of persons on board a ship is directly related to sewage production and scale of potential untreated discharge, and therefore this should be taken into account with any changes to MARPOL Annex IV.

The development of new regulations pertaining to STPs may unintentionally encourage ship designers to forego STPs whenever possible, in favor of using comminuting and disinfecting system CDSs which has fewer associated regulations. It was noted that considering requirements for CDSs was outside of the scope of the work assigned to the Sub-Committee by MEPC, but that Member States could outside of the scope of the work assigned to the Sub-Committee by the MEPC, but that Member States could submit request to expand the scope.

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REFERENCES:

- Draft Amendment to MARPOL Annex IV

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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