



**TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 742 of 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	<b>Marine Plastic Litter From Ship</b>
Reference	Draft Amendments to MARPOL Annex V

**Marine Plastic Litter From Ships**

The Committee approved amendments to MARPOL Annex V to expand the requirement for a garbage record book by lowering the threshold down to ships of 100 gross tonnage and above (from the current threshold 400 gross tonnage and above). This is done in an effort to expand tracking and reporting of accidental discharges to the sea that may involve plastics. Additionally, the IMO Secretariat has been requested to compile a list of guidelines requiring consequential amendments due to the draft amendments to MARPOL Annex V regarding the garbage record book.

The MARPOL Annex V amendments will be subject to adoption at MEPC 79 (Dec-2022), and consideration will be given to revising guidelines associated with garbage record books during PPR 10 (Apr-2023).

**Discussion on Mandatory Marking of Fishing Gear**

The Committee discussed a submittal originating from MEPC 75, proposing amendments to MARPOL Annex V to mandate the marking of *fishing gear so that lost*, abandoned or intentionally discarded fishing gear can be traced back to the owning vessel by the IMO Ship Identification Number. Acknowledging that fishing gear lost at sea represents the largest category of all the sea-based plastic litter sources in terms of volume and potential impact, the Committee agreed to instruct the PPR sub-committee to develop MARPOL Annex V amendments to require the marking of fishing gear, using the framework of a mandatory goal-based requirement.

A goal-based approach was selected in consideration of concerns raised regarding the variety of ways in which fishing gear may be tagged and identified, and will allow States to develop **their** own national standards for fishing gear marking which conform to certain functional requirements while being appropriate for their unique local fishing industries.

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Development of the MARPOL Annex V amendment and supporting goal-based standards will be done in close cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which has experience in addressing this issue.

Status of the IMO Study on Marine Plastic Litter

Following the Committee's adoption at MEPC 77 of the *Strategy to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships* (MEPC.341(77)) to guide and monitor the effective implementation of the Action Plan, the Committee has taken steps to initiate a comprehensive study on marine plastic litter from all ships, including macro and microplastics. The IMO Secretariat provided an update on this effort, and advised that they had not been able to recruit an external consultant to perform an initial review of the terms of reference for this study in time for reporting to this Session. However, the IMO Secretariat is currently in the process of establishing a contract with an external expert who has agreed to review the terms of reference for the IMO Study on *Marine Plastic Litter*, and submit a report to MEPC 79 (Dec-2022).

REFERENCES:

- MARPOL Annex V, MEPC 75, 77,79

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,  
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