

TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No.8/03

TO: PMDS-Representative Offices / PMDS Surveyors
FROM: Technical Department
SUBJECT: **ANNEX IV OF MARPOL 73/78**
DATE: September 19, 2003.

This is to inform you that Annex IV "Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships" of MARPOL 73/78 has been ratified at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and will enter into force on 27th September, 2003. Ships currently in service will have until 27th September, 2008 to comply.

To assist the entry into force the text of Annex IV has been revised and can be found in the MARPOL 73/78 Consolidated Edition, 2002 (IMO 520E) under "Additional Information", items 5 and 6 respectively, pages 460 to 474.

With effect from 27th September, 2003, the revised text of Annex IV will supersede the Annex IV given in the main body of the MARPOL 73/78 Consolidated Edition and will apply to all signatories of Annex IV, irrespective of the date of individual state ratification.

Ships already complying with Annex IV will not have to make any material alterations.

The Annex lays down criteria and restrictions, both physical and geographical, covering the discharge of sewage into the sea.

The revised Annex IV shall apply to the following ships engaged on international voyages from 27th September 2003.

- New ships of 400 gross tons and above;
- New ships of less than 400 gross tons which are certified to carry more than 15 persons (including members of the crew and passengers);
- Existing ships of 400 gross tons and above, by 27th September, 2008;
- Existing ships of less than 400 gross tons, which are certified to carry more than 15 persons (including members of the crew and passengers), by 27th September, 2008.

A 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 27th September 2003; or
- (b) the delivery of which is after 27th September 2006.

An "Existing Ship" means a ship which is not a new ship.

For existing ships, whose keels were laid, or were at a similar stage of construction, before 2nd October 1983, are to be equipped as far as practicable to discharge sewage in accordance with regulation 11 of Annex IV. Existing ships with keel laying on or after this date are expected to comply fully with the regulations.

For new ships or existing ships not already compliant with Annex IV: an initial survey is required. Upon satisfactory completion an International Sewage Pollution Prevention (ISPP) Certificate will be issued. The certificate will be valid for 5 years and renewal surveys will be due at expiry. Annual and Intermediate surveys will not be required. An additional survey will only be required when important repairs or renewals are made or when there is an alteration to the system.

For ships already compliant with Annex IV: the ISPP certificate will be issued at the next renewal survey. If requested by the owners, ships currently holding a valid Statement or Certificate of Compliance and whose flag state is a signatory to Annex IV may be issued with an International Sewage Pollution Prevention (ISPP) Certificate, on or after 27th September 2003, upon completion of a general examination. The expiry date on the ISPP certificate will be the same as that on the Statement/Certificate of Compliance.

PMDS, can at the request of the owner, issue an International Sewage Pollution Prevention (ISPP) Certificate to Existing Ships.

Annex IV does not make reference to the harmonized system of surveys and certification (HSSC); however we understand that this will be the subject of further discussion at the Marine Environment Protection Committee in due course. We would recommend that where the administration implements the HSSC then the ISPP certificate or the Certificate of Compliance is harmonized to the anniversary date.

Find attached the following new forms that have been produced by PMDS-Technical Department to facilitate the issuance of ISPP Certificate:

1. ISPP/IC (10/02)
2. ISPP/SR (10/02)
3. CTT/STP/IC (10/02)

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