

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
65th session  
Agenda item 7

MEPC 65/7/6  
8 March 2013  
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**INTERPRETATIONS OF, AND AMENDMENTS TO, MARPOL  
AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS**

**Revision of MARPOL Annex V Garbage Record Book**

**Submitted by Australia, Liberia, the Marshall Islands and INTERTANKO**

**SUMMARY**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Executive summary:</i>   | This document proposes a revision to the format of the table layout for recording entries of garbage discharges in the Garbage Record Book currently specified in the appendix to the revised MARPOL Annex V |
| <i>Strategic direction:</i> | 2  |
| <i>High-level action:</i>   | 2.0.1  |
| <i>Planned output:</i>      | No related provisions  |
| <i>Action to be taken:</i>  | Paragraph 6  |
| <i>Related document:</i>    | Resolution MEPC.201(62)  |

**Introduction**

1 The Committee, at its sixty-first session, approved draft amendments to MARPOL Annex V. The Secretary-General of the Organization circulated these proposed amendments under the cover of Circular letter No.3118. The revised MARPOL Annex V was adopted at MEPC 62 under resolution MEPC.201(62) and entered into force on 1 January 2013.

2 The co-sponsors have received several requests from shipowners for clarification on the proper manner in which entries are to be recorded in the revised table layout, as set out in the Garbage Record Book in the appendix to the revised MARPOL Annex V. After further review, the co-sponsors believe the revised table is confusing in how entries should be recorded and will lead to differing interpretation of what is accepted by port State inspectors. A proposed revised format has been developed to provide for more clarity and consistency in recording entries.

## Discussion

3 Prior to its revision, the table in the Garbage Record Book, as set out in the appendix to Annex V, included an entry for "Estimated amount discharged/incinerated" in each of the headings for the columns for discharge location, as follows, "Estimated amount discharged into sea", "Estimated amount discharged to reception facilities or to other ship" and "Estimated amount incinerated". It was clear that the estimated amount discharged was to be entered in the appropriate box under the discharge location. In the revised table layout (see table 1 of annex 1) the "Estimated Amount Discharged/Incinerated" is a standalone column, which is no longer related to the location of discharge/incineration. As a result, some shipowners have interpreted that the estimated amount discharged/incinerated should be recorded in the column "Estimated Amount Discharged/Incinerated" and a "tick" should be made in the box under the applicable discharge location, "To Sea", "To reception facility" and "Incineration". Other shipowners have interpreted that if more than one method of discharge is used for the same category of garbage, the total estimated amount should be recorded under the column "Estimated Amount Discharged/Incinerated", while under the columns for discharge location, the corresponding amount of garbage discharged should be reflected. The instructions in paragraph 4.1 of the revised appendix only require that the estimated amount disposed of be recorded for each specific location. There is no requirement to record the combined total amount, when more than one disposal method/location is used. If needed, the total estimated amount can be determined by adding the amounts reflected in the separate columns.

## Conclusions

4 The revised table is not user-friendly and without clarity could result in differing interpretations of proper entries by vessel crews and port State control. The co-sponsors propose that the format be simplified to make it more user friendly to complete and inspect for compliance with instructions in paragraph 4.1 of the appendix.

## Proposal

5 The co-sponsors propose a revision to the format of the table layout for recording entries of garbage discharges in the Garbage Record Book currently specified in the appendix to the revised MARPOL Annex V. The proposed revised table is provided in annex 1 as table 2. The separate column for "Estimated Amount Discharged/Incinerated" has been deleted and that information is included in the columns relating to discharge location, as noted in a proposed new table 2. The entry of this information is more logically made under the applicable column relating to discharge location and is consistent with instructions in paragraph 4.1 of the appendix. Table 2 is also similar to the old table for recording garbage discharges that ships crews have been using and port State control have been inspecting for many years. Some additional information from 4.1 of the appendix that is required to be recorded has also been included in the proposed table 2 to assist those making the recordings. Shipowners and Governments are currently preparing models for Garbage Record Books for their ships. The co-sponsors therefore propose, if the Committee approves the proposed revised table, that voluntary use be authorized as an equivalent to the table format in the amended Annex V, prior to formal adoption of the amendment.

## Action requested of the Committee

6 The Committee is invited to consider the proposal in paragraph 5 and decide as appropriate. Should the Committee agree to the proposal, it is requested that voluntary application of the amendment be authorized as an equivalent to the table format in the amended Annex V, prior to formal adoption of the amendment at MEPC 66 and the amendments entry into force. A proposed draft MEPC resolution is provided in annex 2.

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**ANNEX 1**

**REVISION OF MARPOL ANNEX V  
GARBAGE RECORD BOOK**

Table 1  
Current table layout in appendix to revised Annex V

| Date /time | Position of the Ship/Remarks (e.g. accidental loss) | Category | Estimated amount discharged or Incinerated | To Sea | To reception facilities | Incineration | Certification/ Signature |
|------------|---|----------|--|--------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| /          |   |          |  |        |                         |              | /                        |
| /          |   |          |  |        |                         |              | /                        |

Master's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Table 2  
Proposed new table layout

| Date/time | Position of the ship (latitude/longitude/port)<br>Remarks: (e.g. accidental loss; water depth if known; cargo residues start/stop position) | Category | Estimated amount discharged |  | Estimated amount Incinerated (m <sup>3</sup> ) | Certification/Signature |
|-----------|---|----------|-----------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
|           |   |          | Into sea (m <sup>3</sup> )  | To reception facilities or to other ship (m <sup>3</sup> ) |  |                         |
| /         |   |          |                             |  |  | /                       |
| /         |   |          |                             |  |  | /                       |

Master's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**ANNEX 2**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION MEPC.[...] (66)  
Adopted on [...] March 2014**

**EARLY AND EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF THE AMENDMENT  
TO MARPOL ANNEX V**

**(Amendment to the Garbage Record Book Table Layout in Appendix to Annex V)**

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 38(a) of the Convention of the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (the Committee) conferred upon it by international conventions for the prevention and control of marine pollution,

HAVING ADOPTED, by resolution MEPC.[...] (66), the amendment to Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL),

NOTING that article 16(2)(f)(iii) of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (the 1973 Convention) provides that the aforesaid amendments to Annex V of MARPOL shall be deemed to have been accepted on [...] 2014, unless, prior to that date, not less than one third of the Parties to MARPOL or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50 per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet, have communicated to the Organization their objections to the amendments,

NOTING ALSO that in accordance with article 16(2)(g)(ii) of the 1973 Convention, the aforesaid amendment to Annex V of MARPOL shall enter into force on [...] 2015 upon their acceptance in accordance with article 16(2)(f)(iii) of the 1973 Convention,

NOTING IN PARTICULAR that the purpose of the Appendix to MARPOL Annex V is to ensure a clear and enforceable record of estimated amounts of each discharge of garbage into the sea or to a reception facility,

1. INVITES Parties to MARPOL to consider the application of the aforesaid amendments to MARPOL Annex V as soon as practically possible to ships entitled to fly their flag;
2. INVITES ALSO the maritime industry to implement the aforesaid amendment to Annex V of MARPOL as soon as possible; and
3. INVITES FURTHER Parties to MARPOL who implement the aforesaid amendment to MARPOL Annex V with respect to ships entitled to fly their flag before the expected entry into force date of the amendments to communicate their action to the Organization.