

Sewage Treatment Plants of Passenger Ships Operating in the Baltic Sea Special Area

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems

Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems

Guidance for the Approval and Type Approval of Materials and Equipment for Marine Use

Reason for Amendment

For the purpose of preventing pollution by sewage from ships, regulation 9 of MARPOL Annex IV stipulates that ships are to be installed with sewage systems, such as sewage treatment plants approved in accordance with standards prescribed in IMO resolutions such as resolution MEPC.227(64).

According to an amendment to Annex IV adopted as MEPC.200(62) at the 62nd session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC62) held in July 2011, passenger ships operating in the Baltic Sea Special Area were supposed to comply with standards more stringent than those applicable to other sea areas beginning on 1 January 2016, except in cases where the date of the contract for construction for a passenger ship was before 1 January 2016. In this latter case, the requirements were scheduled to start being applied retroactively on 1 January 2018.

However, due to reasons such as non-availability of approved sewage treatment plants complying with the more stringent standards, the IMO subsequently adopted resolutions MEPC.274(69) and MEPC.275(69) at MEPC69 held in April 2016. These resolutions included another amendment to Annex IV which respectively postponed the above-mentioned implementation dates to a date 3 years and 5 months later than originally planned, except where a postponement of 5 years and 5 months later than originally planned is granted for the implementation date of the retroactive application to existing passenger ships calling only at specific ports when they enter the special area.

Accordingly, all relevant requirements were amended based upon IMO resolutions MEPC.274(69) and MEPC.275(69).

In addition to the above, an amendment to the IMO's guidelines for sewage treatment plants (resolution MEPC.227(64)) was also adopted by the IMO as resolution MEPC.284(70) at MEPC70 held in October 2016 so as to align its application with the newly changed implementation dates, including that for retroactive application, all requirements related to approval tests for sewage treatment plants were accordingly amended based upon IMO resolution MEPC.284(70).

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Designated the Baltic Sea as "special area" within which more stringent requirements to prevent pollution by sewage from passenger ships are applied.
- (2) Specified additional testing requirements for sewage treatment plants installed on passenger ships operating within a "special area".
- (3) Specified that verification is to be carried out to confirm that existing passenger ships

(e.g., those for which the date of contract for construction is before 1 June 2019) which will operate within the the Baltic Sea on or after 1 June 2021 are installed with sewage treatment plants having passed the additional testing requirements specified in (2) above before beginning such operations.

- (4) Amended the standards applied during approval tests for sewage treatment plants installed on ships, including cargo ships operating in normal sea areas, based upon requirements, such as testing requirements, applied within Japan.

Amended Requirements

Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems Part 7 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.2.1

Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems Part 2 1.1.3, Part 7 2.2.1

Guidance for the Approval and Type Approval of Materials and Equipment for Marine Use
Part 2 8.4.2