Verification of Accuracy of Flow Meters for Oil Discharge Monitoring and Control System

Amended Guidance

Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems

Reason for Amendment

MARPOL 73/78 Annex I stipulates regulations for the prevention of pollution by oil and specifies “oil discharge monitoring and control systems” (hereafter ODM) as one kind of oil pollution prevention equipment. In addition, the IMO’s “Guidelines and Specifications For Oil Discharge Monitoring and Control Systems for Oil Tankers” (MEPC.108 (49)) stipulates onboard tests of ODM which require that the accuracy of flow meters should be checked at flow rates of about 50 % of the rated flows of the meters.

The ClassNK Rules, on the other hand, have stipulated since the time of the adoption of MARPOL 73/78 that the accuracy of flow meters should be checked at the minimum flow rates in the measurable ranges of flow meters. This is mainly because MARPOL 73/78 was incorporated into the ClassNK Rules prior to the release of IMO guidelines at a time when were still some aspects of MARPOL 73/78 that were not entirely clear; ClassNK, therefore, decided to base its requirements on the interpretations of MARPOL 73/78 developed by a local research group.

These days, however, tests based upon the aforementioned IMO guidelines are quite common, and the appropriateness of such tests has been sufficiently demonstrated over the years. Relevant requirements were, therefore, amended to conform to the test requirements of the IMO guidelines.

Outline of Amendment

Specified that the check of the accuracy of a flow meter for ODM is to be made at a flow rate of about 50 % of the rated flow of the meter

Amended Requirements

Guidance for marine pollution prevention systems
Part 2: 2.1.3, 3.3.2