

M-Notices - August 2009 Telegraph

MGN 387 (M+F): Guidance on the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Port Waste Reception Facilities) Regulations 2003 and amendments

Previous marine guidance notes on port waste reception facilities regulations are consolidated in this M note, which also revises information and sets out the additional sewage requirements.

The note relates to the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Port Waste Reception Facilities) Regulations 2003, as amended in 2009, and covers requirements for ports and terminals and for ships.

It also includes the updated notification form that needs to be completed, and the updated IMO inadequacy form that reflects changes agreed by the International Maritime Organisation. Also provided is notification of and information on the introduction of an hourly fee for the issue of a port waste exemption certificate, together with an explanation of the exemption process, and the appropriate application form.

Under the 2003 regulations as amended, every UK harbour authority and terminal operator must provide waste reception facilities adequate to meet the needs of ships that normally call in, without causing them undue delay. Many UK ports operate on a landlord basis, where it may fall to the terminal operator to produce a port waste management plan and provide reception facilities. In new cases, the Secretary of State will, upon a request from the port and terminal, provide a direction to the terminal on provision of the plan and facilities.

Most, if not all, such terminals already have plans and facilities, and the guidance says: 'These will need to be updated in the light of the 2009 amendments to the 2003 Regulations. Where responsibility is unclear, terminals should clarify the local situation with the Harbour Authority.' In cases where there is a dispute, the Secretary of State has powers to issue a direction determining who has to discharge the duties under the amended regulations.

Ships under the amended regulations must:

- notify the harbour authority or terminal operator before entry to the port/terminal of the waste they will discharge, including information on types and quantities – but they don't have to notify about sewage if they intend to discharge at sea in accord with Marpol prevention of pollution at sea regulations
- deliver their waste to port reception facilities before leaving the port or terminal, unless it is sewage or they have sufficient dedicated storage capacity for the waste accumulated, and expected to be accumulated during the voyage to the next port
- pay a mandatory charge to significantly contribute to the cost of port facilities for ship-generated waste, whether or not they use them.

Recreational craft meanwhile authorised or designed to carry no more than 12 passengers, and fishing vessels, must deliver their waste other than sewage to the facilities, but are exempt from the requirements to notify before entry and to pay a charge.

The notes also includes guidance on what is expected of certain classes of ship and recreational craft that fall outside the scope of the amended regulations.

In addition, it gives details of the procedures that should be followed by the masters of UK-flagged and foreign-flagged ships if faced with inadequate reception facilities.

MIN 347 (M): Navigation: Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP)

Under the amended STCW 1978 international convention on standards of training, certification and watchkeepers, the ability to use standard marine communication phrases (SMCP) is mandatory for certification of officers in charge of navigational watch on ship of 500gt and above.

This M note gives information on the use and availability of SMCP, adopted by the International Maritime Organisation in 2001 to get round the problem of language barriers at sea and avoid misunderstandings that can cause accidents. The phrases cover the most important safety-related fields of verbal shore-to-ship, ship-to-shore, ship-to-ship and onboard communications, from routine situations such as berthing to responses for use in emergencies.

MIN 348 (M): Navigation: Vessel Traffic Services V103 and Local Port Services Course Dates 2009-2010

This notice sets out 2009-10 dates for IALA V103 and the Local Port Services courses for UK part and harbour authorities at MCA-accredited training institutes. The dates are agreed with South Tyneside College and Fleetwood Nautical Campus.

MGN 394 (M+F): Local Supplier of Fuel Oil Registration

The 2008 Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) regulations require that local suppliers of fuel oil to ships must register with the Secretary of State.

To remain on the register, they need to then make an annual declaration, otherwise they can no longer supply fuel legally.

This M note gives information about the relevant ships covered by the regulations (vessels of 400gt and above, and platforms), together with contact details for registering and making the annual declaration.