



E

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611

Circular Letter No.5192
19 May 2026

To: All IMO Members
Parties to the MARPOL Convention which are not Members of IMO

Subject: **AMENDMENTS TO MARPOL ANNEX I**

1 MEPC 84 (27 April to 1 May 2026) considered and approved draft amendments to MARPOL Annex I (new regulation 12B, and amendments to appendix II - Form of the IOPP certificate and Supplements and appendix III - Form of the Oil Record Book), with a view to adoption at MEPC 85 (30 November to 3 December 2026).

2 The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with article 16(2)(a) of the MARPOL Convention, the text of the draft amendments referred to above and set out in the annex, with a view to its consideration for adoption at MEPC 85 in accordance with articles 16(2)(b), (c) and (d) of said Convention.

ANNEX**DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO MARPOL ANNEX I**

- 1 A new regulation 12B is added in chapter 9 after existing regulation 12, as follows:

"Regulation 12B***Oily bilge water holding tanks and oily bilge water service tanks***

1 Unless indicated otherwise, this regulation applies to every ship of 400 gross tonnage and above that are fitted with an integrated bilge water treatment system (IBTS)* with an installation date on or after [entry-into-force date].

The expression with an installation date on or after [entry-into-force date] means:

- .1 for ships for which the building contract is placed on or after [entry-into-force date]; or
- .2 in the absence of a building contract, for ships of which the keels are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after [entry-into-force date]; or
- .3 for ships other than those specified in .1 or .2 the delivery of which is on or after [(entry-into-force date + 48 months)].

This regulation need only be applied as far as is reasonable and practicable to ships fitted with an IBTS with an installation date before [entry-into-force date].

- 2 Oily bilge water from the oily bilge water holding tank(s) shall be:

- .1 discharged directly to reception facilities through the standard connection referred to in regulation 13; or
- .2 discharged overboard in accordance with the appropriate provisions in regulation 15; or
- .3 disposed of by other acceptable means which shall be annotated in item 3.4.2 or 3.4.3 of the Supplement of the IOPP Certificate, Form A or B, respectively.

3 Other acceptable means may include but not be limited to the use of oily bilge water service tanks* which incorporate heating coils for forced evaporation* and means of transfer to the oil residue (sludge) tank for further processing.

4 Oily bilge water holding tanks and oily bilge water service tanks, if fitted, shall be listed in item 3.3 of the Supplement to IOPP Certificate, Form A or B.

* Refer to the 2026 Guidelines for systems for handling oily wastes in machinery spaces of ships incorporating guidance notes for an integrated bilge water treatment system (IBTS) (MEPC.1/Circ.[...]).

Appendix II (Form of the IOPP Certificate and Supplements)

FORM A

Supplement to the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (IOPP Certificate)

RECORD OF CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT FOR SHIPS OTHER THAN OIL TANKERS

2 The heading of section 3 is replaced by the following:

"3. Means for retention and disposal of oil residues (sludge) (regulation 12) and oily bilge water* (regulation 12B)

* Oily bilge water holding tank(s) and oily bilge water service tank(s) are not required by the Convention; if such tank(s) are provided, they should be listed in table 3.3."

3 The following new section is added after existing section 3.3:

"3.4 Means for the disposal of oily bilge water retained in the oily bilge water holding tank:

3.4.1 Oil filtering equipment in compliance with section 2 of this certificate

3.4.2 Other acceptable means, state which: "

FORM B

Supplement to the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (IOPP Certificate)

RECORD OF CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT FOR SHIPS OTHER THAN OIL TANKERS

4 The heading of section 3 is replaced by the following:

"3. Means for retention and disposal of oil residues (sludge) (regulation 12) and oily bilge water* (regulation 12B)

* Oily bilge water holding tank(s) and oily bilge water service tank(s) are not required by the Convention; if such tank(s) are provided, they should be listed in table 3.3."

5 The following new section is added after existing section 3.3:

"3.4 Means for the disposal of oily bilge water retained in the oily bilge water holding tank:

3.4.1 Arrangements to transfer such oily bilge water to the slop tank

3.4.2 Oil filtering equipment in compliance with section 2 of this certificate

3.4.3 Other acceptable means, state which: "

Appendix III (Form of Oil Record Book)**OIL RECORD BOOK****PART I – Machinery space operations****LIST OF ITEMS TO BE RECORDED**

6 Code (D) "Non-automatic starting of discharge overboard, transfer or disposal otherwise of bilge water which has accumulated in machinery spaces" is replaced by the following:

"(D) Non-automatic starting of discharge overboard, transfer or disposal otherwise of bilge water which has accumulated in machinery spaces:

15. Method of transfer, discharge, or disposal:

- .1 through 15 ppm equipment (state position at start and end);
- .2 to reception facilities (identify port);*
- .3 to slop tank or holding tank or other tank(s) (indicate tank(s); state quantity retained in tank(s), in m³);
- .4 forced evaporation of oily bilge water (indicate tank(s)); and
- .5 other method (state which).

* The ship's master should obtain from the operator of the reception facilities, which includes barges and tank trucks, a receipt or certificate detailing the quantity of tank washings, dirty ballast, residues or oily mixtures transferred, together with the time and date of the transfer. The receipt or certificate, if attached to the Oil Record Book Part I, may aid the master of the ship in proving that the ship was not involved in an alleged pollution incident. The receipt or certificate should be kept together with the Oil Record Book Part I."