

## **Marine Notice No. 7 of 2006**

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### **Guidelines and specifications for pollution prevention equipment for machinery space bilges**

TO SHIPOWNERS, SHIP OPERATORS, MASTERS, SUPPLIERS, REPAIR/TEST FACILITIES,  
AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

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#### *Summary*

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78), requires oil filtering equipment for machinery space bilges on ships of 400 GT and over. For South African ships, the equipment must be of a type approved by SAMSA.

#### **1 Background**

The requirements of Annex I of Marpol 73/78 relating to pollution prevention equipment for ships are set out in Regulation 16. This regulation requires ships of 400 GT and over to be fitted with certain approved equipment. Regulation 16(5) stipulates that the oil content of effluent from 15 ppm bilge separators may not exceed 15 ppm. The 15 ppm bilge alarm must activate to indicate when this level cannot be maintained and initiate automatic stop of overboard discharge of oily mixture where applicable.

#### **2 Introduction**

Resolution MEPC.107(49) lays down revised guidelines and specifications for pollution prevention equipment for machinery space bilges. The guidelines and specifications contain requirements regarding the design, installation, performance and testing of pollution prevention equipment required by Regulation 16 of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78.

#### **3 Policy on pollution prevention equipment for machinery space bilges on South African ships**

3.1 The guidelines and specifications adopted by Resolution MEPC.107(49) are applicable to pollution prevention equipment on South African ships:

- .1 constructed on or after 1 January 2005; or
- .2 constructed before 1 January 2005 but fitted with new pollution prevention equipment on or after that date.

3.2 Pollution prevention equipment fitted on South African ships before 1 January 2005 must comply with:

- .1 the Recommendation on International Performance and Test Specifications for Oily-Water Separating Equipment and Oil Content Meters adopted by Resolution A.393(X) for equipment installed on board on or after 14 November 1978, as applicable; or
- .2 the guidelines and specifications adopted by resolution MEPC.60(33) for pollution prevention equipment installed on board on or after 30 April 1994, as applicable; or
- .3 Resolution MEPC.107(49).

3.3 Routine maintenance of 15ppm bilge separators and 15 ppm bilge alarm systems must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and all routine maintenance and repair work must be recorded.

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