



PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
(Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)
139 25th Street, Port Area
1018 Manila

19 December 2014

HPCG/CG-9

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 10-14

PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SEWAGE

SECTION I AUTHORITY

- A. Republic Act 9993: The Philippine Coast Guard Law of 2009 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations
- B. Presidential Decree No. 600: Marine Pollution Decree of 1974
- C. Presidential Decree No. 602: National Oil Pollution Operations Center Decree
- D. Presidential Decree No. 979: Marine Pollution Decree of 1976

SECTION II REFERENCE

- A. Annex IV of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, MARPOL 73/78
- B. Republic Act No. 9275: Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004

SECTION III PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum Circular is to provide implementing rules and regulations to prevent pollution by sewage from ships operating within the Philippine maritime jurisdiction.

SECTION IV SCOPE

This Memorandum Circular shall apply to:

- A. All vessels 400 gross tonnage and above, and
- B. All vessels less than 400 gross tonnage, which is certified to carry more than fifteen (15) persons.

SECTION V DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this circular, the following terms shall be defined as:

- A. **Holding Tank** - a tank used for the collection and storage of sewage.
- B. **Marine Sanitation Devices** - shipboard equipment that collect, store, treat and discharge sewage overboard as per figure in Annex A.
- C. **Nearest Land** - the closest shoreline of all bodies of water within the Philippine territory.
- D. **Reception Facility** - a port sewage discharge reception facility provided by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) or a mobile discharge reception service provided by, or approved on contract and permit with the PPA, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) or the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as the case may be.
- E. **Sewage** means:
 - (1) Drainage and other wastes from any form of toilets, urinals and water closed scuppers;
 - (2) Drainage from medical premises (dispensary, sickbay, etc.) via wash- basins, wash tubs and scuppers located in such premises;
 - (3) Drainage from spaces containing living animals; or
 - (4) Other wastes water mixed with any of the drainages defined above.
- F. **Special Area** - a body of water which due to recognized technical reasons in relation to its oceanographic and ecological condition and strategic importance, is deemed subject to special control such as the Laguna de Bay, Manila Bay, Pasig River, Taal Lake, marine parks and reserves, tourist spots, etc.
- G. **Vessel** - a ship of any type operating in the marine environment, including hydrofoil boats, aircushion vehicles, submersible, floating craft and fixed or floating platforms/barges.

SECTION VI POLICIES

- A. Vessels covered by this Circular are required to have an International Sewage Pollution Prevention (ISPP) Certificate on board at all times or a waiver that certifies its exemptions.
- B. ISPP Certificate of foreign-registered vessels issued by its country of registry or its recognized organization shall be acknowledged and honored provided that it is a State Party to Annex IV of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships, MARPOL 73/78.

- C. Vessels covered by this Circular shall be provided with either holding tanks, marine sanitation devices or sewage treatment plant with faecal coliform count not exceeding 250 faecal coliforms per 100 millimeter MPN (most probable number) as determined by multiple tube fermentation analysis or any equivalent analytical procedure.
- D. The geometric mean of the total suspended solids standard of the effluent sample shall not exceed 50 milligrams per liter (mg/l) when tested on shore.
- E. The geometric means of the total suspended solid content of effluent samples shall not exceed 100 mg/l of the suspended solid contents of ambient water used for flushing purposes when tested aboardship.
- F. The plant or devices shall be designed in such a manner that the geometric means of the 5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) of the effluent samples taken during the test period do not exceed 50 mg/l.
- G. The use of ozone ultraviolet eradication or any other disinfectant that minimize any adverse effect on the environment while pursuing the faecal coliform standard is highly encouraged.
- H. The equipment shall operate for shipboards or marine use; and
- I. To enable the connection of reception facility pipes to the ship's discharge pipeline, both lines shall be fitted with standard discharge connection in accordance with the following table:

STANDARD DIMENSION OF FLANGES FOR DISCHARGE CONNECTION

DESCRIPTION	DIMENSION
Outside diameter	210 mm
Inner diameter	According to the pipe's outside diameter
Bolt center diameter	170 mm
Slots in flange	4 holes 18 mm in diameters equidistantly placed on a bolt circle of the above diameter slotted to the flange periphery. Slot width shall be 18mm.
Flange thickness	16 mm
Bolts and nuts quantity and diameter	4 each of 16 mm diameter and of suitable length
<p align="center">The flange shall be designed to accept pipes up to a maximum diameter of 100 mm and steel or equivalent material having a flat face suitable for a service pressure of 6kg/sq cm.</p>	

For ships having a molded depth of 3 meters or less, the inner diameter of the discharge connection may be 38 millimeters.

SECTION VII EXEMPTIONS

- A. Ship is not designed to have a holding tank such as motorized *banca*.
- B. The ship is not certified of carrying more than fifteen (15) persons.

SECTION VIII DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE

The discharge of sewage into Philippine waters is prohibited except when:

- (1) The ship is discharging comminuted and disinfected/treated sewage at a distance of more than four (4) nautical miles from the nearest shoreline;
- (2) The ship is discharging sewage which is not comminuted or disinfected/treated at a distance of more than twelve (12) nautical miles from the nearest shoreline;
- (3) The ship has in operation an approved sewage treatment plant by the PCG and that the effluent shall neither produce visible and floating solids nor cause the discoloration of surrounding waters; or
- (4) The discharge is necessary for purposes of securing the safety of the ship and/or saving life at sea in case of a real, grave and imminent danger, provided that all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent or minimize the discharge. Provided further, that in the first two exceptions the sewage that has been stored in holding tanks shall not be discharged instantaneously but at a moderate rate when the ship is en route and proceeding at no less than four (4) knots.

SECTION IX PROCEDURE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF AN ISPP CERTIFICATE

- A. Shipowners of vessels covered by this Circular shall file an application before the Commander, Marine Environmental Protection Command (CMEPCOM) the Certificate to vessels covered in this Circular.
- B. Prior to the issuance of the Certificate and before the ship is put on service, an initial survey shall be undertaken by the Marine Environmental Protection Command (MEPCOM) or its duly authorized representative. In case the Certificate is being issued for the first time, the initial survey shall include a complete survey of the marine sanitation device or sewage treatment plant. Periodical surveys to be conducted annually and during dry docking in order to ensure that the equipment/plant fully complies with the provisions of this Memorandum Circular.
- C. After the survey, no changes or alterations shall be made in the system covered by the survey without written authority from the Commandant, PCG.

- D. CMEPCOM, through the Deputy Chief of Coast Guard Staff for Marine Environmental Protection, CG-9 shall recommend to the Commandant, PCG the accreditation of classification societies or survey organizations/societies that may conduct the above-mentioned surveys.
- E. Vessels found to have complied with the provisions of this circular shall be issued an ISPP Certificate signed by the Commandant, PCG subject to the condition that periodical surveys shall be conducted annually during dry docking. If the vessel is found to be in order, a Certificate of Inspection shall be issued by the PCG which shall be carried on board at all times. Failure to submit the vessel to the periodical survey shall warrant the suspension of the ISPP Certificate.
- F. The Certificate shall be effective for a period of 5 years from its date of issue.
- G. If the vessel, at the time when the certificate expires, is not in port or offshore terminal subject to the jurisdiction of the Philippines, an extension may be allowed only for the purpose of completing its voyage and returning to port for the purpose of survey.
- H. The effectivity of the Certificate shall not be extended to a period longer than three (3) months. Vessels granted an extension shall not, upon its arrival at its homeport or the port where it is to be surveyed, be entitled by virtue of such extension, the right to leave that port without having obtained a new certificate.
- I. The Certificate shall cease to be valid: (1) Upon the expiration of the Certificate, i.e., five (5) years from its approval; and (2) whenever significant alterations have taken place in the system/ equipment without a written authority from the Commandant, PCG.

SECTION X FEES

Ship owners shall be charged Survey Fees in the amount of **Five Thousand pesos (Php 5,000.00)** per survey conducted by the Marine Environmental Research and Development Center (MERDC) of MEPCOM or PCG's Accredited Surveyor and such fees is subject to ten percent (10%) increase per year.

SECTION XI FINES AND PENALTIES

- A. An administrative fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) shall be imposed on the Shipowner or his duly authorized representative for every violation of any of the following provisions:
 - 1) Discharge of sewage in violation of Section VIII of this memorandum circular

- 2) Making any unauthorized significant alterations to the system, particularly Section VI of this circular, after a survey;
- 3) Failure to have on board a valid ISPP Certificate and/or Certificate of Inspection at all times; and
- 4) Failure to submit the vessel to a periodical survey. The imposition of the administrative penalty mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall be without prejudice to other sanctions that may be imposed for violation of any law, rule or regulation arising from the same act.

B. The aforementioned administrative fines and penalties shall automatically be increased by ten percent (10%) every three (3) years from the effectivity of this Memorandum Circular to compensate for inflation and to maintain the deterrent effect of such fines;


C. The imposition of administrative penalty mentioned in paragraph A shall be without prejudice to other sanctions that may be imposed for violation of any law, rule or regulation arising from the same act.

SECTION XII REPEALING CLAUSE

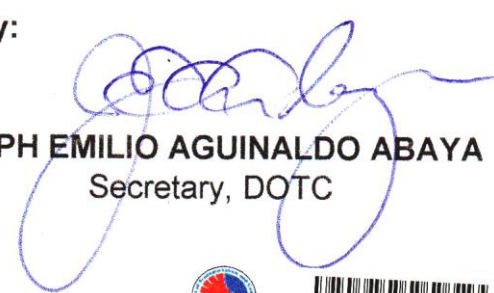
Memorandum Circular No. **07-2005** dated **03 November 2005** is hereby repealed.

SECTION XIII EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.


RODOLFO D ISORENA
VADM PCG
Commandant, PCG

Approved by:


JOSEPH EMILIO AGUINALDO ABAYA
Secretary, DOTC

Note: Published in the Official Gazette on _____



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