



# Technical Information

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No. : 262 - 2022

14 April 2022

To : All BKI Customers

Subject : Summary Report on IMO Meeting of Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response 9<sup>th</sup> Session (PPR 9)

## Summary

This Technical Information summarizes the result of 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 9) that was held remotely from the 04 to 08 April 2022.

## Information

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The following agenda are among those discussed during the meeting:

Agenda Number	Topic
3	Safety and pollution hazards of chemicals and preparation of consequential amendments to the IBC Code
4	Development of an operational guide on the response to spills of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)
5	Revised guidance on methodologies that may be used for enumerating viable organisms
6	Revision of guidelines associated with the AFS Convention as a consequence of the introduction of controls on cybutryne
7	Review of the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (Resolution MEPC.207(62))
9	Standards for shipboard gasification of waste systems and associated amendments to Regulation 16 of MARPOL Annex VI
10	Evaluation and harmonization of rules and guidance on the discharge of discharge water from Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS) into the aquatic environment, including conditions and areas
11	Development of amendments to MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code on the use of multiple engine operational profiles for a marine diesel engine
12	Development of measures to reduce risks of use and carriage of heavy fuel oil as fuel by ships in Arctic waters
13	Development of necessary amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, IV, V and VI to allow states with ports in the arctic region to enter into regional arrangements for Port Reception Facilities (PRFS)
14	Revision of MARPOL Annex IV and associated guidelines to introduce provisions for record-keeping and measures to confirm the lifetime performance of sewage

	treatment plants
15	Follow-up work emanating from the action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships
16	Unified Interpretation to provisions of IMO environment-related conventions

The Agenda above are several technical issues discussed during the meeting. A brief coverage among the issues are expressed in the attached document.

More info

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**BRIEF INFORMATION ON IMO MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (PPR) 9TH SESSION (PPR 9)**

**A. SAFETY AND POLLUTION HAZARDS OF CHEMICALS AND PREPARATION OF CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE IBC CODE (AGENDA ITEM 3)**

PPR 9 reviewed the report of the twenty-seventh of the Technical Group on the Evaluation of Safety and Pollution Hazards of Chemicals (ESPH 27) and:

- Noted the outcome of GESAMP/EHS 58, particularly around the development of Hazard Profiles for 13 new substances, including “Palm oil mill effluent oil”, “Palm oil effluent oil refined” and “Palm oil mill effluent oil fatty acid distillate”.
- Agreed with the evaluation of “Palm oil mill effluent oil” as a replacement for the generic entry for “Palm oil mill effluent (POME) technical oil”, and their respective inclusion in list of MEPC.2/Circ.27, with validity for all countries and with no expiry date.
- Noted the assessment procedure for mixtures against the criteria for the discharge requirement in regulation 13.7.1.4 MARPOL Annex II.
- Noted that there is currently no mechanism for moving annex II substances which have been reassessed as Annex I substances to Annex I. There are a couple of options which may include an additional Annex to MEPC.2/Circ.27, or a list of such substances shall be posted and maintained on the IMO website. Discussions on this will continue.
- Concurred with the evaluation of cleaning additives and note their inclusion in Annex 10 to MEPC.2/Circ.27.

ESPH 28 is provisionally scheduled to take place 10 – 14 October 2022.

**B. DEVELOPMENT OF AN OPERATIONAL GUIDE ON THE RESPONSE TO SPILLS OF HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES (HNS) (AGENDA ITEM 4)**

The main objective of the Marine HNS Response Manual – developed under the Multi-Regional Bonn Agreement, Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and Regional Maritime Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) – is to provide operational guidance to first responders and decision makers on marine incidents involving HNS.

The manual is set out as follows:

- Concepts driving HNS response strategies.
- Operational fact sheets and decision-making flowcharts.
- Specific regional requirements, including information on maritime transport, sensitive resources etc. for the Baltic Sea, the Great North Sea and its approaches and the Mediterranean Sea.

There was considerable support for using The Marine HNS Response Manual as a base document to produce an operational guide for the response to spills of NHS. As such it was agreed that delegations would be invited to work intersessionally to submit a draft manual to PPR 10, with a target completion year of 2023.

**C. REVISED GUIDANCE ON METHODOLOGIES THAT MAY BE USED FOR ENUMERATING VIABLE ORGANISMS (AGENDA ITEM 5)**

As no further information or proposals on new analysis methods for this session. The draft Guidance on methodologies that may be used for enumerating viable organisms for type approval of ballast water management systems was agreed upon with a view to approval at MEPC 78 and dissemination as BWM.2/Circ.61/Rev.1.

**D. REVISION OF GUIDELINES ASSOCIATED WITH THE AFS CONVENTION AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF CONTROLS ON CYBUTRYNE (AGENDA ITEM 6)**

The amendments to the AFS Convention, concerning controls on cybutryne that were adopted by MEPC.331(76), were expected to enter into force on 1 January 2023. In this meeting, PPR 9 discussed consequential amendments to related regulations and guidelines through establishing a working group (WG) on Marine Biosafety to revised Guidelines for brief sampling, survey and certification, and inspection of anti-fouling systems on ships. The revised Guidelines for brief sampling, survey and certification, and inspection of anti-fouling systems on ships were agreed upon and will be sent to MEPC 78 for approval. In the review of the Guidelines for inspection of anti-fouling systems on ships being added a new appendix to the Procedures for port State control in its future version, PPR 9 will invite MEPC to instruct the III Sub Committee to review the Guidelines.

PPR 9 also considered the need for an update to the list of items in the Inventory of Hazardous Materials under the Hong Kong Convention to include, but concluded that no need to amend this appendix because the text was generic enough. On the other hand, PPR 9 notes that there may be a need to amend the 2015 Guidelines for the development of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials (resolution MEPC.269(68)), which contained more specific guidance currently limited to organotin compounds.

**E. REVIEW OF THE 2011 GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS' BIOFOULING TO MINIMIZE THE TRANSFER OF INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES (RESOLUTION MEPC.207(62)) (AGENDA ITEM 7)**

In this session, PPR 9 re-establish the Correspondence Group on Review of the Biofouling Guidelines with the terms of reference in paragraphs 19 to 41 and 48 to 49 of document PPR 9/7, taking into account the information and comments in documents PPR 9/7/1, PPR 9/7/2, PPR 9/7/3, PPR 9/7/4, PPR 9/INF.4, PPR 9/INF.6, PPR 9/INF.12, PPR 9/INF.19, PPR 9/INF.24 and MEPC 76/13/2, as appropriate, and taking also into account the comments made at PPR 9. PPR 9 also encourages the interested Member States and international organizations to participate and contribute to the Correspondence Group.

**F. STANDARDS FOR SHIPBOARD GASIFICATION OF WASTE SYSTEMS AND ASSOCIATED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION 16 OF MARPOL ANNEX VI (AGENDA ITEM 9)**

In the previous PPR 8, the Standards for Shipboard Gasification of Waste Systems have been in development by a correspondence group. Furthermore, in this PPR 9 session the Sub Committee noted the recommendation for the outcome to be a robust, technology neutral, goal-based approach that can be applied to any Thermal Waste Treatment Device (TWTd) using gasification, pyrolysis, plasma or other thermal means for the disposal of garbage and other shipboard wastes generated during a ship's normal service.

The Sub-Committee agreed to refer document PPR 9/9 directly to the Working Group on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, due to time constraints. The Working Group reviewed the proposals and drafted terms of reference for including this topic in the newly established correspondence group on prevention of air pollution from ships with a view to developing draft standards specification/guidelines for thermal waste treatment devices. The output of this discussion will be presented to PPR 10 during April 2023.

**G. EVALUATION AND HARMONIZATION OF RULES AND GUIDANCE ON THE DISCHARGE OF DISCHARGE WATER FROM EXHAUST GAS CLEANING SYSTEMS (EGCS) INTO THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING CONDITIONS AND AREAS (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

The Sub Committee agreed agree to the draft MEPC Circular on 2022 Guidelines for risk and impact assessments of the discharge water from exhaust gas cleaning systems and MEPC Circular on 2022 Guidance regarding the delivery of EGCS residues and stored discharge water to port reception facilities for approval by MEPC 78. These guidelines are intended to be used by flag Administrations which aim to carry out a risk assessment of the discharge of EGCS discharge water.

Under the Working Group on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, it is underlined the importance for the Organization to develop a database containing local and regional restrictions and/or conditions on

the discharge water from EGCS to enhance transparency and clarity for ships and operators. In order to ensure consistency in the reporting, there was a view that such a database could be integrated into the existing MARPOL Annex VI reporting module in GISIS, which already accommodates the reporting of approved equivalent methods as well as other reporting items, such as the unavailability of IMO2020 compliant fuel oil.

In addition, the Sub Committee finalized the draft guidelines on risk assessment request Administrations to submit notifications on the results of the risk assessments and any local regulations to IMO GISIS, and is expected to be considered and approved on MEPC 78.

#### **H. DEVELOPMENT OF AMENDMENTS TO MARPOL ANNEX VI AND THE NOX TECHNICAL CODE ON THE USE OF MULTIPLE ENGINE OPERATIONAL PROFILES FOR A MARINE DIESEL ENGINE (AGENDA ITEM 11)**

Under tis agenda, the Sub-Committee instructed the Working Group on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships to discuss:

- clarify whether multiple engine operational profiles are allowed; and consequently, prepare terms of reference for a Correspondence Group on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships to identify what regulatory controls and/or amendments to MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008 may be needed; and
- consider extending the scope of the discussion to also address test cycles and related amendments of the NOx Technical Code 2008, taking into account document relevant document on MEPC 77 and advise the Sub-Committee accordingly.

Upon conclusion of the technical discussions, the WG finalized the terms of references for the correspondence group and agreed to further discuss the extension of the scope to also cover engine test-cycles in the correspondence group.

PPR 9 included this discussion in the newly established correspondence group on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, with the output of the discussions to be reported to PPR 10 during April 2023.

#### **I. DEVELOPMENT OF MEASURES TO REDUCE RISKS OF USE AND CARRIAGE OF HEAVY FUEL OIL AS FUEL BY SHIPS IN ARCTIC WATERS (AGENDA ITEM 12)**

As PPR 8 had requested NCSR Sub-Committee and HTW Sub-Committee to review draft guidelines on mitigation measures to reduce risks of use and carriage for use of HFO as fuel by ships in Arctic waters (PPR 8/6) and both Sub-Committee had not had the opportunity to do so yet, the Sub-Committee agreed to keep this agenda item in abeyance until its next session. Consequently, the Sub-Committee invited the Committee to extend the target completion to 2023.

**J. DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO MARPOL ANNEXES I, II, IV, V AND VI TO ALLOW STATES WITH PORTS IN THE ARCTIC REGION TO ENTER INTO REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PORT RECEPTION FACILITIES (PRFS) (AGENDA ITEM 13)**

Recognizing that Regional Arrangements solely between ports within Arctic waters may not be feasible due to a variety of commonly shared environmental, geographic and infrastructure limitations as well as shipping needs and patterns. And also recognized that, unlike Small Island Developing States (SIDS), an Arctic State may have multiple coastlines, not all of which border Arctic waters. If a State has ports in Arctic waters, it does not mean it can apply the Regional Arrangements concept to any of its ports outside of Arctic waters. The Regional Arrangements should only support the needs of ports in Arctic waters. To ensure that Regional Arrangements do not proliferate beyond those unique circumstances the proposal arises to amend MARPOL to make specific reference to the scope of the Regional Arrangement, in that it should only cover ports within Arctic waters.

Based on that issues, PPR 9 finalized draft amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, IV, V, and VI with a view to approval by MEPC 78 and subsequent adoption by MEPC 79. Sub-Committee also agree to the draft amendments to the 2012 Guidelines for the development of a regional reception facility plan (resolution MEPC.221(63)) and the associated draft MEPC resolution, with a view to adoption by MEPC 79, in conjunction with the adoption of the aforementioned draft amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, IV, V and VI.

**K. REVISION OF MARPOL ANNEX IV AND ASSOCIATED GUIDELINES (AGENDA ITEM 14)**

A Working group on Sewage Treatment Plants and Marine Plastic Litter from Ships was established during PPR 9 which had the following outcomes in relation to MARPOL Annex IV and its associated guidelines:

- It was agreed that the title of this output would be amended to *“Revision of MARPOL Annex IV and associated guidelines to introduce provisions for record-keeping and measures to confirm the lifetime performance of sewage treatment plants; and further, on new ships, a prohibition of fitting comminuting and disinfecting systems (CDS).”*
- There was consideration of the prohibition of CDSs on existing ships, but before doing so further case reviews would need to be undertaken.
- Terms of Reference for a correspondence group (CG) on the revision of MARPOL Annex IV and associated guidelines were developed and agreed by PPR 9. Consideration will be given to the following on existing ships by the CG: testing the operational performance of the sewage treatment plants; maintenance of a sewage treatment plan and record keeping to improve and document maintenance and treatment operations; and effluent limits for existing ships are needed to obtain improved effluent performance from existing sewage treatment plants.
- That consideration should be given to a threshold based on the number of persons onboard the ships in the Terms of Reference to be established at PPR 10 due to the ongoing work related to the draft International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel (IP Code) and

anticipated upcoming work in MEPC regarding proposed amendments to the definition of person in regulation 1.8 of MARPOL Annex IV.

#### **L. FOLLOW-UP WORK EMANATING FROM THE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS MARINE PLASTIC LITTER FROM SHIPS (AGENDA ITEM 15)**

PPR 9 via the WG on Sewage Treatment Plants and Marine Plastic Litter from ships proposed draft amendments to MARPOL Annex V, Regulation 10 which would lower the size of ships to which the requirement to carry and maintain a garbage record book to ships of 100GT and over. PPR 10 will discuss consequential amendments to any other guidelines as a result of the change.

It was agreed that a Correspondence Group on Marine Plastic Litter from Ships was established to reduce the environmental risk associated with the maritime transport of plastic pellets. It was also consider reporting mechanisms, the modalities and the information to be reported to Administrations and the IMO to facilitate and enhance reporting of the loss or discharge of fishing gear.

#### **M. UNIFIED INTERPRETATION TO PROVISIONS OF IMO ENVIRONMENT-RELATED CONVENTIONS (AGENDA ITEM 16)**

##### **Unified interpretations of provisions of MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008**

Regarding the unified interpretations of the provision of MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008, the Sub Committee referred all related documents to the Working Group on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships for detailed consideration. The discussion under this working group covers:

- Editorial amendments on Draft Revision of Annex of MEPC.1/Circ.895 in relation to Application of the Engine Family/ Engine Group Concept, Chapter 4 of NOx Technical Code 2008, with the view for approval by MEPC 78.
- Review draft interpretation of regulations 14.8 and 14.10 of MARPOL Annex VI (In-use and onboard fuel sampling and testing, sampling points, without agreement.
- Review Draft unified interpretation of regulation 16.9 of MARPOL Annex VI.

##### **Unified interpretations of provisions of the BWM Convention**

Concerning unified interpretations of the form of the International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC) and regulation B-3.10 of the BWM Convention the Sub Committee referred all related documents to the Working Group on Marine Biosafety for detailed consideration and having noted that all proposals were highly technical. The discussion under this working group covers:

- Proposed unified interpretation of regulation B-3.10 of the BWM Convention

This proposal is intended for ships constructed before 8 September 2017 to which regulations B-3.2 or B-3.4 apply and which have an initial IOPP Survey completed after 8 September 2019,

where the renewal survey may be completed after 8 September 2024. This proposal was considered but did not receive sufficient support to be agreed, despite its literal correctness.

- Proposed unified interpretation of appendix I to the BWM Convention

This proposal includes the unified interpretation of Appendix I “Form of International Ballast Water Management Certificate” (IBWMC) with a view to clarifying requirements for ships in instances such as when barges are carried on semi-submersible ships for international voyages, or the semi-submersible itself when engaged on an occasional international voyage and is granted an exemption to implement D-1 instead of D-2 standard was agreed and will be sent to MEPC 78 for approval and inclusion in BWM.2/Circ.66/Rev.3.