

Summary and interpretations of sewage disposal from ships (For the complete regulation see Wet voorkoming verontreiniging door schepen and MARPOL Annex IV)

The Netherlands Shipping Inspectorate is responsible for the enforcement of the Wet voorkoming verontreiniging door schepen en the belonging regulations.

This law refers dynamically to the MARPOL Convention 1973.

Application

Annex IV contains regulations for the prevention of pollution by sewage from ships. The provisions of this Annex shall apply to the following ships engaged in **international** voyages:

1. new ships of 400 gross tonnage and above; and
2. new ships of less than 400 gross tonnage which are certified to carry more than 15 persons; and
3. existing ships of 400 gross tonnage and above, after September 28th 2008
4. existing ships of less than 400 gross tonnage which are certified to carry more than 15 persons, after September 28th 2008

Ships to which the annex applies are in possession of a certificate

Interpretation unmanned pontoons more than 400 GT

The annex is not applicable for unmanned pontoons of more than 400 GT

Description

A new ship is a ship build on or after September 27th 2003.

Existing ships the keels of which are laid or which are of a similar stage of construction before October 2nd 1983 shall be equipped, as far as practicable, to discharge sewage in accordance with the requirements of regulation 11 of the Annex.

Sewage systems

Every ship that is required to comply with this Annex shall be equipped with one of the following sewage systems:

- a sewage treatment plant which shall be type approved by the organisation;¹
- a approved sewage comminuting and disinfecting system, with sufficient storage capacity;
- a holding tank of sufficient capacity. The holding tank shall have means to indicate visually the amount of its contents;
- and a standard discharge connection conform Annex IV Reg 10.

Interpretation visually indication the amount of its content

The use of a sounding rod is discouraged for hygienic reasons. Contamination with drinking water should be avoided at all times. When in spite of all a sounding rod is used an adequate set of measures should be taken into account in order to prevent

¹ Refer to the Recommendation on international effluent standards and guidelines for performance tests for sewage plants adopted by resolution MEPC.2(VI). For existing ships, national standards are acceptable.

exposure to the content of the tank. (Labour conditions decree Art 4.87a). The risk of contamination should be recorded in the Risk Inventory and Evaluation of the ship.

Interpretation minimum contents of holding tank

Volume of sewage in litres per person per day

	<i>Without vacuum plant</i>		<i>With vacuum plant</i>	
	<i>Black water</i>	<i>Gray and black water</i>	<i>Black water</i>	<i>Grey and black water</i>
<i>Passenger ships</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>185</i>
<i>Other ships</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>135</i>

The content of the sewage tank should be enough for three days as a minimum, unless there are circumstances justifying a smaller capacity

Discharge of sewage

The discharge of sewage into the sea is prohibited, except when:

1. the ship has in operation an approved sewage treatment plant
2. the ship is discharging comminuted and disinfected sewage at a distance of more than 3 nautical miles from the nearest land or sewage which is not comminuted and disinfected at a distance of more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land
3. the ship operates in the waters under the jurisdiction of a state in accordance with such less stringent requirements as may imposed by such state.

Discharge of 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 not less than 4 knots. The rate shall be approved by the administration according to IMO resolution MEPC.157(55).