

T5/1.07

THE LACK OF RECEPTION FACILITIES FOR SHIP-GENERATED WASTE IN MANY PORTS

1 The lack of reception facilities for ship-generated waste in many ports has been brought before the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) on many occasions during the last two decades, mainly by the shipping industry. This problem is considered to be one of the main causes of pollution in the marine environment from ships, and the provision of reception facilities is therefore high on the agenda of the MEPC.

2 In accordance with the decision of the MEPC at its 37th session (11-15 September 1995) the Secretariat was requested (MEPC 37/22, paragraph 16.5) to draw the attention of Parties to MARPOL to their obligation to ensure the provision of reception facilities in their ports and terminals in accordance with the regulations contained in Annexes I, II and V of MARPOL 73/78.

3 In order to assist the Parties to MARPOL 73/78 and other States in the process of establishing reception facilities IMO has issued several manuals, the latest being the " Comprehensive Manual on Port Reception Facilities" published in July 1995. Information on the Manual is attached.

4 Due to the amount of garbage washed up on beaches in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, a US\$5.5 million IMO/World Bank project entitled "The Wider Caribbean Initiative for Ship-Generated Waste" was launched in September 1994 with a grant from the Global Environment Facilities (GEF). The objective of the project is to assist in the ratification and implementation of MARPOL 73/78, and to work toward the further establishment of reception facilities for ship-generated waste in 22 developing countries in the Wider Caribbean area. The project's Co-ordinator is based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

5 One reason given by many Members for their lack of sufficient reception facilities is the cost involved. IMO decided to assist in this matter and has established a Correspondence Group on a financing scheme for reception facilities. The next report of the Group will be presented at MEPC 38 (1 to 10 July 1996).

6 Although there is a need for reception facilities in all areas, the need for such facilities in areas designated as 'special areas' under MARPOL 73/78 is vital as the 'special area' status will not come into effect until countries bordering the 'special area' have notified IMO that their ports are provided with adequate reception facilities.

7 With the aim of promoting effective implementation of MARPOL 73/78, the Secretariat, based on information submitted by Member States, circulates yearly a list of facilities in ports for the reception of oily waste from ships, and a list of facilities for waste water containing noxious liquid substances from ships carrying chemicals in bulk. The latest lists are contained in MEPC 3/Circ.1 and MEPC/Circ.198 respectively. It is an obligation of the Parties to MARPOL 73/78 to communicate to the Organization, under the provisions of article 11(d), a list of reception facilities including their location, capacity, and other characteristics. Parties to MARPOL 73/78 and other Member States are requested to submit information on reception facilities, in accordance with the established "one-line" entry format for each port, to IMO each year for circulation to Member States. In order to keep the list up to date IMO should be kept apprised of any changes in the status of reception facilities, and Member States are requested to update the appropriate list and submit details of any changes to IMO by 1 May every year as appropriate.
