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NVIC 9-82 CH-1

8 OCT 1988

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 9-82 CHANGE 1

Subj: Change 1 to NVIC 9-82 of 10 May 1982, Subj: MSD Certification

1. PURPOSE. This Circular revises guidance in Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular No. 9-82, by providing for acceptance of non-Coast Guard certified sewage treatment plants on foreign flag vessels operating in waters of the United States, if the sewage treatment plants meet the requirements of Annex IV of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL). The performance requirements for Annex IV Sewage treatment plants are in Resolution MEPC.2(VI) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
2. BACKGROUND. Although it is not in force internationally and has not been ratified by the United States, several countries have ratified MARPOL Annex IV (Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships). Some foreign shipping administrations have already begun to issue MARPOL Annex IV Certificates of Type Test for sewage treatment plants. For foreign flag ships, the United States has typically recognized appropriate foreign certifications for ship safety equipment based on international instruments. Under 33 U.S.C. 1322(c)(2) and (g)(1), there is no requirement for the United States to maintain a certification procedure for foreign flag ships as long as there is another means for verifying the acceptability of their sewage treatment plants.
3. DISCUSSION.
 - a. Enclosure (1) to NVIC 9-82 contains a comparison of effluent standards for USCG certified Type I and Type II Marine Sanitation Devices (MSDs), Canadian certified MSDs meeting Great Lakes standards, and MARPOL Annex IV sewage treatment plants (identified as "IMCO" on the table). The MARPOL standard for suspended solids is more stringent than the U.S. standard, and the fecal coliform count standard is marginally less stringent. The MARPOL sewage treatment plants must also meet a standard for 5-day biological oxygen demand (BOD₅) for which there is no U.S. equivalent.

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