
		SHIPS CLASSIFICATION MALAYSIA SCM CIRCULAR		 <small>MS ISO 9001 REG. NO. AR2998</small>	
		TO SHIPOWNERS, MASTERS, AGENTS AND RELEVANT INTEREST PARTIES			
<i>QUALITY MATTERS</i>		Issue No	12/2010	Issue Date	29 DEC 2010
TITLE	MARPOL Annex I – prevention of pollution during transfer of oil cargoes between oil tankers at sea (STS operations)				

Resolution MEPC.186 (59) was adopted at MEPC 59 and contains a new Chapter 8 of MARPOL Annex I on the prevention of pollution during the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea. The new regulation does not apply to any bunker operation and oil transfer operation associated with fixed or floating platforms

At the first periodical survey after 01 January 2011, Oil tankers of 150 GT and above engaged in the transfer of oil cargo at sea (STS operations) will need onboard, an STS operations Plan approved by the ships Flag Administration or by a Recognized Organization (RO), describing how STS operations are to be conducted.

The STS operations Plan shall be developed taking into account the information contained in the best practice guidelines for STS operations identified by IMO, namely:

- The IMO's "Manual on Oil Pollution, Section I, Prevention" as amended, and
- The ICS and OCIMF "Ship-to-ship Transfer Guide, Petroleum", fourth edition, 2005.

STS operations Plan is to be written in the working language of the ship and is required to be approved not later than the date of the first annual, intermediate or renewal survey of the ship under MARPOL Annex I to be carried out on or after 1 January 2011. The attending surveyor will verify the presence on board of the approved STS Operations Plan.

The STS operations Plan may be included in an existing Safety Management System required by the chapter IX of SOLAS, 1974, if that requirement is required for the vessel.

After the approval of the Administration of STS operations Plan, operations conducted before 1st April 2012, shall be in accordance with the STS operations Plan as far as possible.

After the 1st April 2012, STS operations have to comply with the approved plan. Records of STS operations (in the Oil Record Book) are to be retained on board for a period of not less than three years since the transfer occurred. Any oil tanker subject to the regulation that plans STS operations within the territorial sea or the Exclusive Economic Zone of a Party to MARPOL, shall notify the relevant coastal state Party not less than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled STS operations. Res. MEPC 186(59) is attached for further reference.



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