

Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-168

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian Vessels, Recognized Organizations and Masters.

Subject: Approval of the Rate of Discharge for Untreated Sewage

Reference: Law No. 17 of November 9, 1981, adopting the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), 1973.
Law No. 1 of October 25, 1983, adopting the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), Protocol 1978.
Law No. 30 of March 26, 2003, adopting the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), Protocol 1997.
Resolution MEPC.157 (55) adopted October 13, 2006; MARPOL Annex IV. 11.1.1 (Only as recommendation)

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1. The purpose of this Circular, is to inform to all concerned parties, of our procedures to request the approval of rate of discharge.
 2. The Regulation 11.1.1 of the revised Annex IV of MARPOL 73/78 requires that untreated sewage, which may be discharged at more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land, should not be discharged instantaneously but at a moderate rate of discharge, when the ship is "en route" and proceeding at a speed not less than 4 knots, while the rate should be approved by the Administration.
 3. The standards developed by the Organization for the approval and calculation of a moderate rate of discharge are established on the Resolution MEPC.157(55).
 4. The request must be sent to authorizations@segumar.com and copy of a valid vessel's ISPP Certificate shall be submitted. The Administration will approve the rate of discharge specified in MARPOL Annex IV Reg. 3.1 based upon the ship's maximum summer draft and maximum service speed. Where sewage is to be discharged at a different combination of draft and speed one or more secondary discharge rates may also be approved. Submission may be tabular, refer to the below table:



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DISCHARGE RATE (m ³ /h)					
SPEED (kt)	4	6	8	10	12
DRAFT (m)					
5	4.63	6.94	9.26	11.57	13.89
6	5.56	8.33	11.11	13.89	16.67
7	6.48	9.72	12.96	16.20	19.45
8	7.41	11.11	14.82	18.52	22.22
9	8.33	12.50	16.67	20.83	25.00

5. The maximum permissible discharge rate is 1/200,000 (or one 200,000th part) of swept volume as follows:

Where:

DR_{max} is maximum permissible discharge rate (m³/h)

V is ship's average speed (knots) over the period

D is Draft (m)

B is Breadth (m)

6. After the rate of discharge evaluation Segumar Offices will approve it and issue a letter stating the approval.

November, 2021 – References were updated, subject was amended and entire text was revised.

July, 2008

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

SEGUMAR Panama
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

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 Panama Ship Registry
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