

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-178

- To:** Owners/Operators of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Legal Representatives, Consuls, and Recognized Organizations.
- Subject:** Reports Alleging Inadequate MARPOL Port Reception Facilities
- 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.  
MEPC/Circ.467/Rev.1, dated 13 July 2007 (Only as recommendation)

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1. This Merchant Marine Circular describes the procedures for owners and/or operators of Panamanian flag vessels to report allegations of inadequate port reception facilities for oily wastes, noxious liquid substances, sewage, garbage, and/or ozone depleting substances and exhaust gas-cleaning system residues, to the Flag Administration.
  2. Nations which are signatory to MARPOL 73/78 are compelled to provide adequate port reception facilities to meet the needs of vessels using them without causing undue delay to the vessels for the following situations, oily wastes in accordance with Regulation 38 MARPOL Annex I, noxious liquid substances as specified in Regulation 18 of MARPOL Annex II, sewage in accordance with Regulation 12 of MARPOL Annex IV, garbage as per Regulation 7 of Annex V, and ozone depleting substances and exhaust gas-cleaning system residues in accordance with Regulation 17 of MARPOL Annex VI.
  3. This Merchant Marine Circular provides a revised consolidated format for Master's to report alleged inadequacies of port reception facilities for oily wastes (MARPOL Annex I), noxious liquid substances (MARPOL Annex II), sewage (MARPOL Annex IV), garbage (MARPOL Annex V), and ozone-depleting substances and exhaust gas-cleaning system residues (MARPOL Annex VI) to the Flag Administration and, if possible, to the Authorities of the Port State.



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4. The Master's report for alleged inadequacies of port reception facilities, together with any supporting documentation, shall be submitted to Segumar Panama Office, to the following e-mail address [segumar.headoffice@segumar.com](mailto:segumar.headoffice@segumar.com).
5. This Administration encourages to operators to include the provisions of this circular in their procedures for shipboard operations required under section 7 of the ISM Code, and urges Masters to use the consolidated format to report alleged inadequacies of port reception facilities.
6. The consolidated format for reporting alleged inadequacies of port reception facilities is an Annex of this MMC.

**November, 2021** – *References were updated and paragraph 4 was modified.*  
**August, 2008.**

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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

Phone: (507) 501 5361/5353/5350/5348  
E-mail: [segumar.headoffice@segumar.com](mailto:segumar.headoffice@segumar.com)  
Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>



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## ANNEX

### Revised Consolidated Format for Reporting Alleged Inadequacies of Port Reception Facilities <sup>1</sup>

The Master of a ship having encountered difficulties in discharging waste to reception facilities should forward the information below, together with any supporting documentation, to the Administration of the flag State and, if possible, to the competent Authorities in the port State. The flag State shall notify the IMO and the port State of the occurrence. The port State should consider the report and respond appropriately informing IMO and the reporting flag State of the outcome of its investigation.

#### 1. SHIP'S PARTICULARS

- 1.1 Name of ship: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.2 Owner or operator: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.3 Distinctive number or letters: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.4 IMO Number : \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.5 Gross tonnage: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.6 Port of registry: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.7 Flag State : \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.8 Type of ship:
- |                  |                 |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Oil tanker       | Chemical tanker | Bulkcarrier     |
| Other cargo ship | Passenger ship  | Other (specify) |

#### 2. PORT PARTICULARS

- 2.1 Country: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.2 Name of port or area: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3 Location/terminal name:  
(e.g. berth/terminal/jetty) \_\_\_\_\_



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2.4 Name of company operating the reception facility (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

2.5 Type of port operation:

Unloading port      Loading port      Shipyard

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2.6 Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (dd/mm/yyyy)

2.7 Date of occurrence \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (dd/mm/yyyy)

2.8 Date of Departure \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (dd/mm/yyyy)

### 3. INADEQUACY OF FACILITIES

3.1 Type and amount of waste for which the port reception facility was inadequate and nature of problems encountered

Type of waste	Amount for discharge (m <sup>3</sup> )	Amount <i>not</i> accepted (m <sup>3</sup> )	Problems encountered Indicate the problems encountered by using one or more of the following code letters, as appropriate. A No facility available B Undue delay C Use of facility technically not possible D Inconvenient location E Vessel had to shift berth involving delay/cost F Unreasonable charges for use of facilities G Other (please specify in paragraph 3.2)
<b>MARPOL Annex I-related</b> Type of oily waste:			
Oily bilge water			
Oily residues (sludge)			
Oily tank washings (slops)			
Dirty ballast water			
Scale and sludge from tank cleaning			



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Other (please specify .....)			
<b>MARPOL Annex II-related</b> Type of NLS <sup>4</sup> residue/water mixture for discharge to facility from tank washings:			
Category X substance			
Category Y substance			
Category Z substance			
<b>MARPOL Annex IV-related</b> Sewage			
<b>MARPOL Annex V-related</b> Type of garbage:			
Plastic			

Floating dunnage, lining, or packing materials			
Ground paper products, rags, glass, metal, bottles, crockery, etc.			
Cargo residues, paper products, rags, glass, metal, bottles, crockery, etc.			
Food waste			
Incinerator, ash			
Other (please specify .....)			
<b>MARPOL Annex VI-related</b>			
Ozone-depleting substances and equipment containing such substances			
Exhaust gas-cleaning residues			



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3.2 Additional information with regard to the problems identified in the above table.

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3.3 Did you discuss these problems or report them to the port reception facility?

Yes                      No

If Yes, with whom (please specify)

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If Yes, what was the response of the port reception facility to your concerns?

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3.4 Did you give prior notification (in accordance with relevant port requirements) about the vessel's requirements for reception facilities?

Yes                      No                      Not applicable

If Yes, did you receive confirmation on the availability of reception facilities on arrival?

Yes                      No





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## 4. ADDITIONAL REMARKS/COMMENTS

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Master's signature

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (dd/mm/yyyy)