



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 166

MARPOL 73/78 – Annex IV

Guidance and Instructions for Bahamas Recognised Organisations, Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers and Masters

1. Purpose

- 1.1. Annex IV of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, as amended by the Protocol of 1978, as amended (MARPOL 73/78), "Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships", entered in to force on 23 September 2003.
- 1.2. The Bahamas was not in a position to accede to Annex IV at its entry into force, however the Annex has been voluntarily applied to all applicable Bahamian ships from 23 September 2003, as outlined in MEPC.1/Circ.633.
- 1.3. The Bahamas acceded to Annex IV on 08 June 2017. Accordingly, Annex IV of MARPOL 73/78 will apply to The Bahamas and Bahamian ships from **08 September 2017**.
- 1.4. Any references to Articles and Regulations in this Bulletin are references to Annex IV of MARPOL 73/78 unless stated otherwise.

2. Application

- 2.1. Annex IV of MARPOL 73/78 applies to the following ships engaged in international voyages:
 - i. Ships of 400 gross tonnage and above;
 - ii. Ships of less than 400 gross tonnage which are certified to carry more than 15 persons, including private (non-commercial) yachts.

3. Surveys, certification and documentary requirements

- 3.1. All Bahamian ships to which Annex IV of MARPOL 73/78 applies have been issued with a "Statement of Compliance with MARPOL Annex IV", in lieu of the International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate specified in Regulation 5, as described in MEPC.1/Circ.633.
- 3.2. Bahamas Recognised Organisations shall issue International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificates to Bahamian ships on completion of the first survey under Regulation 4 that takes place on or after 08 September 2017.
- 3.3. Statements of Compliance with Annex IV of MARPOL 73/78 that have already been issued to Bahamian ships by Bahamas Recognised Organisations shall be replaced directly with International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificates [at the first attendance of a surveyor for any survey](#) that takes place on or after 08 September 2017, with the expiry date being no later than that on the existing Statement of Compliance.
- 3.4. The transitional arrangements described in paragraph 3.3 will apply for a period of 15 months from the entry into force date for The Bahamas, i.e. until 08 December 2018.
- 3.5. The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) has advised the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of the transitional certification arrangements described above and requested that this is further disseminated in a circular. This Bulletin will be updated with a copy of the circular when it has been issued by IMO. Port State Control are expected to respect the actions taken by The Bahamas during the transition to full implementation of Annex IV to Bahamian ships.
- 3.6. The BMA recommends that a copy of this Bulletin and the associated IMO Circular, when issued, are retained in the ship's certificate file until an International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate has been issued.

4. Revision History

Rev.1 (14 Jun 2017) – Clarification of transitional certification requirements in paragraph 3.3

Rev.0 (09 June 2017) – First issue