



# The Bahamas Maritime Authority

## BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 90

### MARPOL ANNEX II - CARRIAGE OF VEGETABLE OILS

**Guidance and Instructions for Ship-owners, Managers, Masters, Bahamas Recognised Organisations and Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors**

*Note: This Bulletin is to be read in conjunction with IMO Resolution MEPC 148(54)*

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#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Following the re-evaluation of certain Noxious Liquid Substances in Chapter 17 of the IBC Code, some unmodified oils and fats were required to be carried in IMO ship "type 2", instead of ship "type 3", from 01 January 2007.
- 1.2 Delegations at IMO expressed concern that there would be a shortfall in suitable tonnage, as a result of the re-evaluation. An exemption clause was therefore agreed, as set out in MARPOL Annex II / 4.1.3.
- 1.3 Under the provisions of MARPOL Annex II / 4.1.3, an Administration may exempt ships from the carriage requirements under regulation 11 for ships certified to carry individually identified vegetable oils identified by the relevant footnote in Chapter 17 of the IBC Code, provided that the ship meets all the requirements for ship type 3 and also the minimum cargo tank protection described in MARPOL Annex II / 4.1.3.2.

## **2 Carriage Requirements**

- 2.1 It is generally accepted that in order to ensure sufficient tonnage and under the terms of the exemption, there is no limit intended to be imposed upon the quantity of each substance carried in the cargo tanks of ship type 3, i.e. they may carry quantities in excess of 3,000 m<sup>3</sup> in any cargo tank. However some confusion remains over the scope of the exemption in relation to carriage requirements in ship type 2 in regard of maximum allowable quantity in any cargo tank.
- 2.2 Ship type 2 meets all the requirements for ship type 3 and also the cargo tank protection described in MARPOL Annex II / 4.1.3.2. The Bahamas has no requirements over and above those set out in the MARPOL Annex II / 4.1.3. Therefore the exemption clause applies equally to those ships. The Bahamas imposes no limit on quantity to be carried in any cargo tank, regardless of ship type.

## **3 Effect**

The Bahamas Maritime Authority hereby gives notice that the exemption provisions of MARPOL Annex II / 4.1.3 may be applied to suitably certified Bahamian vessels.

## **4 Dry Cargo Ships**

For dry cargo ships applying to carry vegetable oil cargoes, the guidelines set out in IMO Resolution MEPC 148(54) must be applied.

## **5 Certification**

- 5.1 Bahamas Recognised Organisations should assess individual applications for exemption under MARPOL Annex II / 4.1.3 before forwarding to BMA for consideration, together with their recommendation in accordance with BMA Information Bulletin no.8 taking account of the advice above.
- 5.2 Any application for dry cargo ships to carry vegetable oils is to be accompanied by the Recognised Organisation recommendation, together with the agreement of the country of loading and unloading.