
Tecnicomar Ecomar Sewage Treatment Plants

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Technical Alert is to raise awareness of issues reported in relation to certain Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) types manufactured by Tecnicomar SPA, Italy.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. It was reported in February 2019 that a decision had been made to withdraw the Marine Equipment Directive (MED) type approval certification from certain ECOMar STP produced by Tecnicomar. Details of affected units are provided in Annex I.
- 2.2. Further, as of October 2020 updated information has been circulated throughout the maritime industry advising that continuous use of the affected ECOMar STP models is being potentially recognised as harmful to the environment.
- 2.3. **Therefore, with immediate effect, the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) strongly advises against the use of any of the affected STP for discharge overboard of treated sewage in accordance with Regulations 11.1 and 11.2 of Annex IV of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as amended (MARPOL Annex IV).**
- 2.4. Continuous use of the affected STP may result in the competent authorities of a Coastal State imposing severe sanctions against the ship and her Master as such discharges may be considered a deliberate violation of the provisions of MARPOL Annex IV.

3. BMA Position

- 3.1. The BMA position regarding marine equipment installed on board Bahamian ships is outlined in [BMA Information Bulletin No. 71](#)¹.
- 3.2. Marine equipment installed on board during the term of validity of a Type Approval Certificate is considered accepted by the BMA.

¹ <https://www.bahamasmaritime.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/BMA-Bulletin-71-Approval-Certification-of-Marine-Equipment.pdf>

- 3.3. Use of installed type-approved equipment is not conditional on the continuous validity of its Type Approval Certificate. The equipment may be used continuously even if the Type Approval Certificate expires or may have been withdrawn by a certifying authority.
- 3.4. The BMA however retains the right to review and, where considered appropriate, restrict use of type approved equipment where objective evidence exists that the equipment may present a danger to the ship, her crew, maritime safety and security or be considered potentially harmful to the environment.
- 3.5. In such situations, specific case-by-case measures shall be agreed between the BMA and the Recognised Organisation that classes such ship to bring the performance of the affected marine equipment into compliance with the original approval standards. In exceptional cases the BMA may require the use of such marine equipment to be permanently terminated.

4. Actions required for ships fitted with Tecnicomar ECOmar STPs

- 4.1. Companies² operating ships which have an affected ECOmar STP installed shall contact the Recognised Organisation that classes the ship at the earliest possibility. A detailed corrective action plan should be developed and submitted to the BMA by the Recognised Organisation for review and acceptance. The plan shall include a list of proposed actions to bring the sewage treatment installation on board into full compliance with Regulation 9 of MARPOL Annex IV. Such actions may include:
- Installation of an upgrade pack by Tecnicomar to restore the Type Approval Certificate of the STP³; or
 - Installation of a different STP, new or refurbished, with a valid Type Approval Certificate. A new International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (ISPP) initial survey will need to be completed, and an amended ISPP Certificate issued; or
 - Removal of STP and fitting the ship with a suitable sewage holding tank in compliance with Regulation 9.3 of MARPOL Annex IV. A new ISPP initial survey will need to be completed, and an amended ISPP Certificate issued.
- 4.2. All corrective actions shall be completed by not later than the next scheduled ISPP renewal survey.

² The "Company" is the entity responsible for the management of the ship in accordance with the ISM Code. For ships to which the ISM Code is not applicable, the Company is the "Managing Owner" in accordance with Section 52 of the Merchant Shipping Act

³ It is understood as of February 2021 an upgrade pack is being developed by Tecnicomar in cooperation with a certifying authority

5. Validity

5.1. This Technical Alert is valid until further notice.

ANNEX I

List of Affected Tecnicomar ECOMAR STP

Certificate Number and MED Module	Model	Specified Standard	Type Approval Certificate Validity
MED1550293 B	ECOMAR 20	MEPC.227(64), including para. 4.2	21/12/2020
MED1550294 B	ECOMAR 32	MEPC.227(64), including para. 4.2	21/12/2020
MED1550295 B	ECOMAR 45	MEPC.227(64), including para. 4.2	21/12/2020
MED1550296 B	ECOMAR 70	MEPC.227(64), including para. 4.2	21/12/2020
MED1550297 B	ECOMAR 145	MEPC.227(64), including para. 4.2	21/12/2020
MED1650019 B	ECOMAR 340	MEPC.227(64), including para. 4.2	13/01/2021
MED1650020 B	ECOMAR 545	MEPC.227(64), including para. 4.2	13/01/2021
MED1650164 D	ECOMAR 6 ECOMAR 6AC ECOMAR 8 ECOMAR 8AC ECOMAR 16 ECOMAR 24 ECOMAR 50 ECOMAR 120 ECOMAR 200 ECOMAR 20 ECOMAR 32 ECOMAR 45 ECOMAR 70 ECOMAR 145 ECOMAR 340 ECOMAR 545	MEPC.227(64), including para. 4.2	28/05/2019