
MARPOL Annex II - Carriage of Vegetable Oils

Notice to ship owners, managers, Masters, Approved Nautical Inspectors, Recognised Organisations and surveyors

This Notice supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.90

1. Purpose

- 1.1. According to Chapter 17 of the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) mandates some unmodified vegetable oils and fats are required to be carried in IMO Type 2 tankers only
- 1.2. This Marine Notice sets forth the provisions allowing carriage of vegetable oils and fats on Type 3 tankers and dry cargo ships subject to specific exemption provisions as outlined below.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Notice applies predominantly to Type 3 tankers and dry cargo ships intended to carry vegetable oils and fats identifiable in the footnote of Chapter 17 of the IBC Code.
- 2.2. This Notice should be read in conjunction with
 - i. Regulations 4 and 11 of Annex II of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex II) and
 - ii. Chapters 16.1 and 17 of the IBC Code and
 - iii. IMO [Resolution MEPC.148\(54\) Guidelines for the transport of vegetable oils in deep tanks or in independent tanks specially designed for the carriage of such vegetable oils in general dry cargo ships](#)

3. Carriage Requirements

- 3.1. Under the provisions of Regulation 4.1.3 of MARPOL Annex II, the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) may exempt ships from the specific design and construction requirements of Regulation 11 of MARPOL Annex II when intended to carry individually identified vegetable oils referred to in the footnote to Chapter 17 of the IBC Code, provided that:
- i. The ship meets all the requirements for a Type 3 tanker and,
 - ii. The cargo tank protection meets the minimum standard specified in Regulation 4.1.3.2 of MARPOL Annex II.
- 3.2. Since Type 2 tankers meet all the requirements for Type 3 tankers and the cargo tank protection described in Regulation 11, the exemption clause applies equally to both those types of ships.
- 3.3. In the view of the BMA, no limit to quantities to be carried in any single cargo tank, as per Chapter 16.1 of the IBC Code, need be imposed regardless of the ship type. It is generally accepted under the terms of the voyage based exemption that there is no limit intended to be imposed upon the quantity of each substance carried in cargo tanks, i.e. Type 2 tankers may carry quantities in excess of 3,000 m³ in any cargo tank.
- 3.4. For Polar Code¹ Category A and B ships constructed on or after 1 January 2017, operating in Polar Waters, the carriage of vegetable oils in cargo tanks of Type 3 ships is subject to the approval of the Administration. The Recognised Organisation shall apply to the BMA for approval and the results shall be reflected on the International Pollution Prevention Certificate for the Carriage of Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk or Certificate of Fitness identifying the operation in polar waters².

4. Dry Cargo Ships

- 4.1. For dry cargo ships applying to carry vegetable oil cargoes, the guidelines set out in IMO Resolution MEPC 148(54) shall apply.

5. Requesting an Exemption

- 5.1. Bahamas Recognised Organisations should assess permanent and individual voyage based applications for exemption under Regulation 4.1.3 of MARPOL Annex II before forwarding them to the BMA for consideration.

¹ Please refer to Marine Notice 88

² Please refer to paragraph 2.1.3 of Part II-A of the Polar Code

- 5.2. Any application for a dry cargo ship to carry vegetable oils is to be accompanied by the Recognised Organisation's recommendation and indication of consent to the proposed carriage conditions by the Competent Authorities of the countries where ports of loading and unloading are located.

6. Queries

- 6.1. Any queries on this Notice may be submitted to tech@bahamasmaritime.com or any BMA office.

