

**Main results and decisions taken at the 60<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)  
London, 22 to 26 March 2010**

**1. MEPC RESOLUTIONS**

**1.1 Installation of Ballast Water Management Systems on New Ships in Accordance with the Application Dates Contained in the Ballast Water Management Convention (BWM Convention) (Resolution MEPC.188(60))** (Annex 1 to and paragraph 2.31 of MEPC 60/22)

*By its Resolution MEPC.188(60) the Committee urged once again those States which have not yet ratified the BWM Convention to do that at their earliest convenience; noted that by now there is already a sufficient number of water ballast management systems (BWMS) in place for stakeholders; further noted that BWMS installed onboard ships constructed in 2010 **will have to comply with the requirements of the B-3.3. Standard of the Convention** when it enters into force, and also called on administrations to encourage the installation of BWM systems on new ships in accordance with the implementation dates indicated in the Convention.*

**1.2 Amendments to the Annex to the Protocol of 1978 to MARPOL 73 Convention (Resolution MEPC.189(60))** (addition of new Chapter 9 to Annex I to MARPOL - Annex 10 to and paragraph 5.13.3 of MEPC 60/22)

*The amendments provide for the addition of new Chapter 9 into Annex I to the MARPOL Convention which regulates the use and carriage of oil, as it is defined by Annex I, in the Antarctic area. Transportation of heavy oil grades as a cargo and as fuel is not permitted; the entry into force of the Resolution in accordance with the 'tacit acceptance' procedure is expected on 1 August 2011.*

**1.3 Amendments to the Annex to the Protocol of 1997 to MARPOL 73/78 Convention (Resolution MEPC.190(60))** (Annex 11 to and paragraph 5.13.4 of MEPC 60/22)

*The amendments provide for the introduction of a new, North American Emission Control Area. Implementation of the new regime of control is expected to take place on 1 August 2011.*

**1.4 Establishment of the Date on Which Regulation 5(1)(h) of MARPOL Annex V in Respect of the Wider Caribbean Region Special Area Shall Take Effect (Resolution MEPC.191(60))** (Annex 14 to and paragraph 8.10.1 of MEPC 60/22)

*Requirements relating to the discharge of garbage in the Wider Caribbean Region will take effect as from 1 May 2011. The resolution urges the member States and stakeholders of the marine industry to comply immediately with its requirements on a voluntary basis.*

**2. CIRCULARS APPROVED BY MEPC AT ITS 60<sup>th</sup> SESSION**

**2.1 Extension of the scope of MEPC.1/Circ.675** (paragraph 8.11 of MEPC 60/22, circular MEPC.1/Circ.675/Rev.1)

*The Committee decided to extend the scope of MEPC.1/Circ.675 by including the Wider Caribbean Region therein. This way of action is considered as an adequate interim measure which will be effective until the completion of the ongoing revision of MARPOL Annex V.*

2.2 Revised form of Supplement to International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate (IAPP) (paragraph 4.50.2 of MEPC 60/22, Annex 2 to MEPC 60/WP.9, **MEPC.1/Circ.718**)

*By this circular MEPC urged all States Parties to Annex VI to MARPOL-73/78 to insert the corresponding modifications into the form of the Supplement to IAPP Certificate 'at the earliest possible opportunity' prior to the entry into force of revised Annex VI, i.e., before 1 July 2010. See also paragraph 3.1 of the present paper below.*

2.3 Technical information on a vapour pressure control system in order to facilitate the development and update of VOC management plans (paragraph 4.50.3 of MEPC 60/22, Annex 3 to MEPC 60/WP.9, **MEPC.1/Circ.719**)

*The information set out in the circular on a direct absorption of VOC by oil is intended to render assistance to Administrations, shipowners, recognized organizations and other interested parties in the development of VOC management plans.*

2.4 Adjustment of geographical limits of the North American Emission Control Area (paragraphs 5.12.3 and 5.13.6 of MEPC 60/22, an '**MEPC.1/Circ.**' circular).

*As on mid-May 2010, this circular is not yet out.*

### **3. DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO IMO INSTRUMENTS**

3.1 Draft amendments to Annex I to the revised MARPOL Annex VI (revised form of Supplement to International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate; Annex 5 to and paragraph 4.50.1 of MEPC 60/22). The next, 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee is expected to approve a new text of Section 2.3 of the Supplement referring to amended sulphur content limits in Emission Control Areas and outside such areas in accordance with Annex VI Regulation 14 (Resolution MEPC.176(58)). The amendments specify the sulphur content (mass) in marine fuels, which is not to exceed 4.50% (until 01.01.2012), 3.50% (until 01.01.2020) and 0.50% after 01.01.2020, if a ship operates outside ECAs, and 1.00% before 01.01.2015 and 0.10% after that date, if a ship operates within an ECA. See also paragraph 2.2 of the present paper.

3.2 Draft amendments to MARPOL Annex III (Annex 15 to and paragraph 10.3 of MEPC 60/22). The Committee approved the amendments to MARPOL Annex III (replacement of the text) which are expected to be adopted at the net, 61<sup>st</sup> session.

### **4. OTHER IMPORTANT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS 60<sup>th</sup> SESSION**

4.1 MEPC agreed to grant its basic approval to the following ballast water management systems (MEPC 60/22, paragraph 2.4):

4.1.1 **SICURE™ Ballast Water Management System** manufactured in Germany (German paper MEPC 59/2/11);

4.1.2 **Sunrui Ballast Water Management System manufactured in China** (Chinese paper MEPC 60/2/3);

- 4.1.3 **DESMI Ocean Guard Ballast Water Management System** manufactured in Denmark (Danish submission MEPC 60/2/4);
- 4.1.4 **Blue Ocean Guardian (BOG) Ballast Water Management System** manufactured in the Republic of Korea (ROK paper MEPC 60/2/5);
- 4.1.5 **Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd. (HHI) Ballast Water Management System (HiBallast)** manufactured in the Republic of Korea (ROK submission MEPC 60/2/6);
- 4.1.6 **Kwang San Co., Ltd. (KS) Ballast Water Management System "En-Ballast"** manufactured in the Republic of Korea (ROK submission MEPC 60/2/7);
- 4.1.7 **OceanGuard™ Ballast Water Management System** производства Норвегии (документ Норвегии MEPC 60/2/8), и
- 4.1.8 **Severn Trent DeNora BalPure® Ballast Water Management System** developed by Germany (German paper MEPC 60/2/9).

The decision to grant the basic approval was adopted on the basis of recommendations made by GESAMP in its reports (documents MEPC 60/2/11, Annex 6, MEPC 60/2/12, Annexes 6 to 8, MEPC 60/2/16, Annexes 4 to 7). «Basic approval» means that the Administrations of China, Denmark, Germany and Republic of Korea should take further action recommended by GESAMP to duly refine their systems (MEPC 60/22, paragraph 2.5).

- 4.2 MEPC decided to grant its final approval to the following ballast water management systems (MEPC 60/22, paragraph 2.7):
  - 4.2.1 **GloEn-Patrol™ Ballast Water Management System** manufactured in the Republic of Korea and proposed in MEPC 59/2/7;
  - 4.2.2 **Resource Ballast Technologies System** manufactured in South Africa and proposed in MEPC 59/2/10;
  - 4.2.3 **JFE Ballast Water Management System (JFE-BWMS)** manufactured in Japan and proposed in MEPC 60/2/2),

And the **HHI Ballast Water Management System (EcoBallast)** manufactured in the Republic of Korea and described in MEPC 60/2/1 (MEPC 60/22, paragraph 2.13).

- 4.3 Necessity to amend MARPOL Annex IV to include the 'special area' concept therein. The Committee considered proposals put forward by the Baltic States on restricting the discharge of sewage from passenger ships and concluded that: the 'special area' concept should be introduced in Annex IV; the Baltic Sea should become a 'special area' in terms of Annex IV (paragraph 6.18 of MEPC 60/22). In the meantime, a number of preparatory steps should be taken prior to this action, including, in particular, the adequacy assessment of shore reception facilities in the subject region.

- 4.4 MEPC took decision on the interim (before approval at its 61<sup>st</sup> session) application of the version of "IMO Manual on Oil Pollution" contained in document MEPC/OPRC-HNS/TG 10/3/1, in order to en-

able developing plans for safe ship-to-ship transfer of oil (STS Operational Plans) (MEPC 60/22, paragraph 6.51) required by Resolution MEPC.186(59).

4.5 The next, 61<sup>st</sup> session of MEPC will take place in London, at IMO Headquarters from 27 September to 1 October 2010 года (MEPC 60/22, paragraph 19.10). The following groups are expected to be convened during that session (MEPC 60/22, paragraph 19.11):

- working group on energy efficiency measures for ships
- working group on ship recycling;
- review group on ballast water technologies; and
- drafting group on amendments to mandatory instruments.

4.6 MEPC approved the establishment of the following correspondence groups whose reports should be submitted to the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee ((MEPC 60/22, paragraph 19.12):

- on review of MARPOL Annex V;
- on ship recycling guidelines;
- on environmental risk evaluation criteria;
- on noise from commercial shipping and its averse impact on marine life.

4.7 The Committee approved proposals on convening of the following intersessional meetings (MEPC 60/22, paragraph 19.13):

- OPRC/HNS technical group (September 2010, the week before MEPC 61);
- ESPH working group, from 18 to 22 October 2010, and
- working group on energy efficiency measures for ships.

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