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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
MARINE POLLUTION, 1973
Agenda item 7

CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS, 1973

Comments and proposals of Governments on a draft text of the Convention

Submitted by the Government of Australia

ANNEX I

Regulation 4(1)(c) - The last sentence appears to incorporate a typographical error, but notwithstanding such error it is suggested the provision should be rephrased,

'Following completion of each periodical inspection, an endorsement to that effect shall be made on the International.....(etc.)'

Regulation 15(3)(a) - This provision, as phrased, requires that the transfer of oily waste into a slop tank shall be effected by such arrangements as to ensure that, at the time of transfer, the provisions of Regulation 9 relating to oil content of any effluent shall be complied with. The reason for this is not clear as Regulation 9 applies to discharge into the sea and not to the compilation of wastes being transferred within the confines of a ship.

Regulation 21(2) - To ensure that the meaning of 'tank-to-tank' is clearly understood, a definition of the term should be introduced into Regulation 1. (A similar definition should also be inserted in Regulation 1 of Annex II.)

Appendix II (A. Certificate for Oil Tankers)

- (i) Entry (3)(b) on the proposed form impliedly queries, on its face, the basic ability of a tanker to operate as

a tanker! The term 'retention of oil on board' should be identified with the method specified in Regulation 15.

(ii) To distinguish what has been described as arrangements, as opposed to equipment, it would be preferable to have proposed entries (3)(c) and (d) separately included in a fourth group, i.e.

- '(4) The ship is equipped with:
- (a) an oil discharge monitoring and control system*
 - (b) a specified slop tank*

Appendix II (B. Certificate for ships other than Oil Tankers)

- The reference to exemptions granted under Regulation 2(2) appears to be erroneous, and should be deleted.

ANNEX II

Regulation 5(1)(b) - This provision poses problems of implementation. Apart from the question of what should be regarded as 'adequate' further dilution, the manner in which a significant 'reliable calculation' can be executed creates difficulties.

Regulation 5(2)(b) and (c), 5(3)(b) and (c)

It is submitted that these provisions are incapable of practicable implementation pending the outcome of the studies proposed in draft Resolution 4. In the interim, a more satisfactory control would be achieved by replacing these specific provisions with a general provision relating to tanks being as empty as practicable and subsequent dilution with water of volume not less than 'x%' tank volume - similar to Regulation 5(1). It is appreciated that the only difference between the treatment of substances in Categories B and C would then comprise, possibly, the percentage volume for water dilution.

Any amendment to these provisions would require consequential amendments to Regulations 0(4)(b)(ii) and 8(6).

ANNEX IV

Regulation 1(4)(c) - Wording should be altered to take account of animals carried in spaces other than holds, as follows:

'drainage from holds and other spaces occupied by living animals; or'

Regulation 6 - The grammatical construction should be changed to the following:

'Each contracting Government shall take appropriate steps to ensure that ports shall be provided with facilities adequate for the reception, without causing undue delay to ships, of any sewage that remains for disposal on board the ship.'

In addition to the above, the following typographical errors have been noted:

- ANNEX I, Regulation 14(2) - Reference to Regulation 9(b) should read Regulation 9(1)(b)
 - ANNEX I, Regulation 16(4) - Square brackets should be inserted around the figure 100
 - ANNEX I, Regulation 21(3) - 'Regulation 12' should read 'Regulation 9', and 'the reason for' should be deleted.
 - ANNEX I, Regulation 26(11) - Square bracket should be opened at beginning of last sentence.
 - ANNEX II, Regulation 5(2) - The word 'as' at the commencement of the third line should read 'or'
 - ANNEX II, Appendix II - Third column heading should include reference to Regulation 5(1) in place of Regulation 5(a).
 - ANNEX IV, Regulation 3(6) - In the third sentence, the word 'very' should read 'every'.
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