



IMCO

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
MARINE POLLUTION, 1973
Committee II
Agenda item 4

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT TEXT OF ANNEXES IV AND V
OF THE DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE
PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS, 1973

Progress Report of the Working Group on Annex IV

1. A Working Group consisting of delegations of Australia, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Japan, Liberia, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the observers from ICS, under the Chairmanship of Mr. K.B. Schumacher (USA), as requested by the Committee, considered Annex IV of the Convention.
2. Significant discussion was held by the Working Group on items in Regulations 1, 2, and 4; only those points are reported below.

Definition of Sewage

- (1) In Regulation 1(4)(c) the word "holds" has been replaced by "spaces". Some delegations felt that an exclusion for living animals on open decks was required for, as drafted, this could require drains into the ship in violation of the Load Line Convention. The proposed definition is reproduced below:

"Sewage" means:
 - (a) drainage and other discharges from any form of toilets, urinals and WC scuppers;
 - (b) drainage from medical premises (dispensary, sick bay, etc.) via wash basins, wash tubs and scuppers located in such premises;

- (c) drainage from spaces containing living animals; or
- (d) other waste waters including those containing the substances described in Regulation 3(1)(b) and (d) of Annex V of the present Convention when mixed with the drainages defined above.

Application

- (2) Both the tonnage and number of persons were discussed. It was the consensus that variations in either of these could necessitate changes in the discharge standards in Regulation 4. No discussion was held on the time of coming into force as covered in the last phrase of Regulation 2(b).

Discharge

- (3) Only Regulation 4(1)(a) was discussed. Major points and propositions also discussed were:
 - (a) The number of persons on board a ship might also be used as a criterion.
 - (b) Simple maceration alone might be justification for permitting discharge closer to land than for raw sewage.
 - (c) Refinement in specifying the methods and rate of discharge might justify discharge closer to land. Dispersion of sewage can have favourable effects.
 - (d) Decision taken in discharge criteria could effect the decision by some delegations as whether or not they would desire special areas.

The proposed text presented was a compromise reached after lengthy discussions and is advanced with no prejudice to the position of any delegation. The distance from nearest land in the proposed text is placed in square brackets for decision by the Committee since the views in the Working Group were still divided on this point at adjournment.

Regulation 4

Discharge of Sewage

(1) Subject to the provisions of Regulation 5 of this Annex, the discharge of sewage into the sea is prohibited, except when:

- (a) the ship is discharging as far as practicable from the nearest land but in no case less than [4] nautical miles from the nearest land, provided that sewage that has been stored in holding tanks shall not be discharged instantaneously but at a moderate rate when the ship is en route and proceeding at not less than 4 knots. The rate and methods of discharge shall be approved by the Administration based on standards developed by the Organization; or
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