

RESOLUTION MEPC.30(25)
GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INCIDENTS INVOLVING HARMFUL SUBSTANCES
adopted on 3 December 1987

ANNEX 18

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GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INCIDENTS INVOLVING HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 38 of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO article 8 and Protocol I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), concerning reports on incidents involving harmful substances,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution MEPC 21(22) by which it adopted amendments to Protocol I of MARPOL 73/78,

RECOGNIZING that States Parties to the International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties (1969) and the Protocol Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Marine Pollution by Substances other than Oil (1973) may take such measures on the high seas as may be necessary to prevent, mitigate or eliminate grave and imminent danger to their coastline or related interests from pollution or threat of pollution of the sea by oil and substances other than oil following upon a maritime casualty or acts related to such a casualty, which may reasonably be expected to result in major harmful consequences,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the need for coastal States to be informed by the master of an assisting ship or a ship undertaking salvage of particulars of action taken and the incident,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that an incident involving damage, failure or break down of the ship, its machinery or equipment could give rise to a significant threat of pollution to coastlines or related interests,

NOTING resolution MEPC.22(22) by which the Committee established the Guidelines for Reporting Incidents Involving Harmful Substances,

NOTING ALSO resolution A.598(15) by which the Assembly adopted General Principles for Ship Reporting Systems and Ship Reporting Requirements,

HAVING CONSIDERED proposals for a revision of the Guidelines,

1. ADOPTS the Guidelines for Reporting Incidents Involving Harmful Substances, the text of which is set out in the Annex to the present resolution to supersede the Guidelines contained in resolution MEPC.22(22);
2. RECOMMENDS Member Governments and States Parties to the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 to implement the Guidelines, in accordance with paragraph (2) of article V of Protocol I.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The intent of these guidelines is to enable coastal States and other interested parties to be informed without delay of any incident giving rise to pollution, or threat of pollution, of the marine environment, as well as of assistance and salvage measures, so that appropriate action may be taken.

2 HOW TO MAKE REPORTS

The report should be transmitted in accordance with the Annex to resolution A.598(15).

3 CONTENTS OF REPORTS

The report should contain the specific information listed in section 3.3 of the appendix to the Annex to resolution A.598(15):

4 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

4.1 Immediately following or as soon as possible after the transmission of the information referred to in section 3 above, as much as possible of the information essential for the protection of the marine environment as appropriate to the incident should be reported. The information should include items P, Q, R, S and X as listed in section 3.3 of resolution A.598(15). In addition, item X should include an estimate of spill movement and, if possible, include an estimate of the surface area of the spill.

5 PROBABILITY OF DISCHARGE

5.1 The probability of a discharge resulting from damage to the ship or its equipment is a reason for making a report. In judging whether there is such a probability and whether the report should be made, the following factors, among others, should be taken into account:

- .1 the nature of the damage, failure or breakdown of the ship, machinery or equipment; and
- .2 sea and wind state and also traffic density in the area at the time and place of the incident.

5.2 It is recognized that it would be impracticable to lay down precise definitions of all types of incidents involving probable discharge which would warrant an obligation to report. Nevertheless, as a general guideline, the master of the ship should make reports in cases of:

- .1 damage, failure or breakdown which affects the safety of ships. Examples of such incidents are collision, grounding, fire, explosion, structural failure, flooding, cargo shifting; and
- .2 failure or breakdown of machinery or equipment which results in the impairment of the safety of navigation. Examples of such incidents are failure or breakdown of steering gear, propulsion plant, electrical generating system, essential shipborne navigational aids.

6 REPORTS ON ASSISTANCE OR SALVAGE

6.1 Whenever a ship is engaged in or requested to engage in an operation to render assistance to or undertake salvage of a ship involved in an incident referred to in subparagraph 1(a) or 1(b) of article II of Protocol I of MARPOL 73/78, as amended, the Master of the former ship should report without delay the particulars of the action undertaken or planned. In addition, he should report, as far as practicable, on the items referred to in sections 3 and 4. Reports should be made in accordance with section 2 and the coastal State should be kept informed regarding developments.

7 ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS

7.1 Governments should be guided by paragraphs 16 and 17 of the Annex of resolution A.598(15).

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