

The London Convention & London Protocol

Progress by the LC/LP on the assessment of vessels and platforms for disposal at sea

LC/SG 44 Science Day

Experience with comparative risk assessment for decommissioning of platforms and the disposal of vessels

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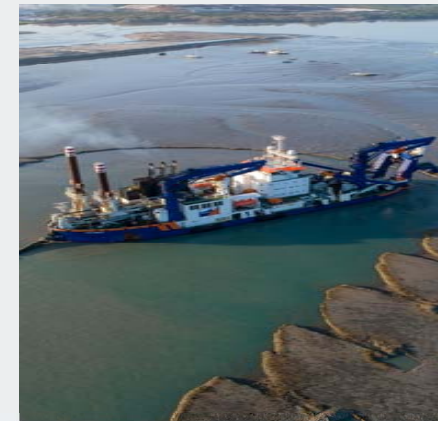
London Convention and Protocol



Global treaties that regulate the prevention of pollution from dumping of wastes at sea

The London Convention 1972 (LC)

- One of the first global conventions to protect the marine environment from human activities.
- In force since 1975
- Currently **87** Contracting Parties



The London Protocol 1996 (LP)

- More modern and comprehensive global treaty
- Will eventually replace LC
- In force since 2006
- Currently **53** Contracting Parties



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London Protocol



- A stand-alone treaty relating to the prevention of marine pollution from dumping at sea that has been in force since 2006
- Provides the precautionary framework needed for parties to effectively prevent pollution of the sea caused by dumping of waste and other matter, incineration, and new activities such as marine geoengineering and carbon capture and storage
- A key pillar of marine environmental protection in an important international regime that includes MARPOL, UNCLOS and Regional Seas Agreements

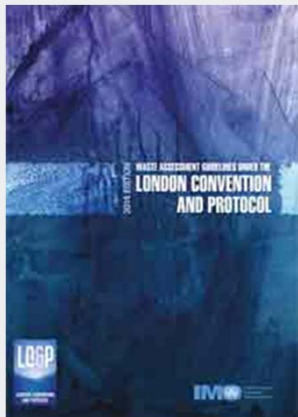


Wastes that may be considered for dumping



Waste Assessment Guidelines (WAGs)

- Guide implementation of **Annex 2 of the LP**
- Provides a framework useful in many areas of waste prevention and management.
- Provides a process for assessing wastes, issuance of permits, and monitoring.



Step 1 - Characterize Waste

Step 2 - Waste Prevention Audit

Step 3 - Waste Management Options

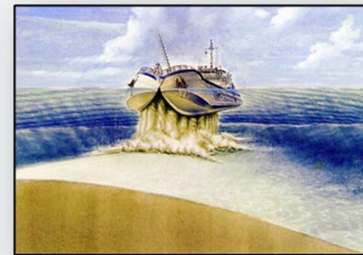
Step 4 - Apply Action List

Step 5 - Identify and Characterize Dump Site(s)

Step 6 - Determine Potential Impacts and Develop Impact Hypothesis

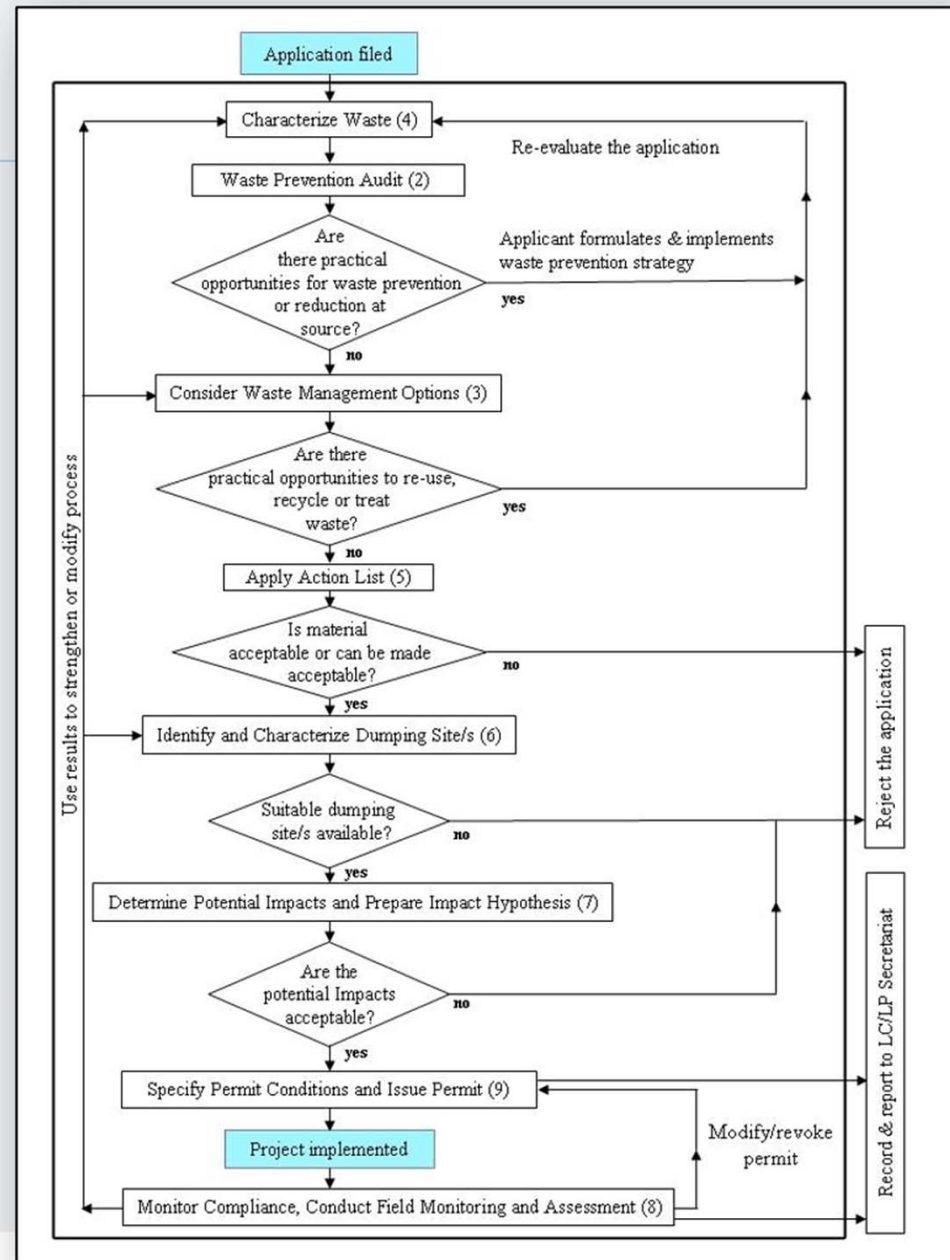
Step 7 - Specify Permit Conditions and Issue Permit

- Step 8 - Monitor Compliance, Conduct Field Monitoring and Assessment



Waste Assessment Guidance (WAGs)

- Waste Assessment Guidance Process
- Consists of eight steps with several decision points that are not necessarily taken in sequential order.
- Not a linear process – many feedback loops
- Applications may be withdrawn or re-formulated early in the process.
- Applicants may be asked for additional information before proceeding.
- Options other than ocean disposal may be identified.
- Applications may be rejected at several stages.
- **Specific Guidelines for Assessment**



Specific Waste Assessment Guidance



- **Revised specific guidelines for the assessment of vessels (2016)**
- **Revised specific guidelines for assessment of platforms or other man-made structures at sea (2019)**
 - Intended for use by national authorities responsible for regulating dumping of wastes
 - Embody a mechanism to guide national authorities in evaluating applications for dumping of wastes in a manner consistent with the provisions of the LP/LC



Definitions

- **Platforms**

- Facilities designed/operated for the purpose of producing, processing, storing, or supporting offshore mineral resources (primarily oil and gas)
- Other structures: lighthouse, jetties, navigational aids, buoys, etc.

- **Vessels: waterborne or airborne craft of any type, including:**

- Submersibles
- Air-cushioned craft
- Floating craft



May 27, 2009: *ex-General Hoyt S. Vandenberg*
Sunk 7 Miles off Key West, Florida

Specific Guidelines



- waste prevention audit (section 2)
- vessels: waste management options (section 3)
- waste characterization: chemical/physical properties (section 4)
- disposal at sea: best environmental practices (section 5, action list)
- identify and characterize dump-site (section 6, dump-site selection)
- determine potential impacts and prepare impact hypothesis(es) (section 7,
• assessment of potential effects)
- issue permit (section 8, permit and permit conditions)
- implement project and monitor compliance (section 9, monitoring)
- field monitoring and assessment (section 9, monitoring).





Thank you

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