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Ref. T5/1.01

MEPC.1/Circ.590  
1 August 2007

## REVISED TANK CLEANING ADDITIVES GUIDANCE NOTE AND REPORTING FORM

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its fifty-second session, adopted the revised MARPOL Annex II by resolution MEPC.118(52), which includes in regulation 13 “Provisions on the control of discharge of Noxious Liquid Substances” and specifically, in this context, restrictions on the cleaning additives permitted for use in tank washing operations as follows:

“13.5.2 When small amounts of cleaning additives (detergent products) are added to water in order to facilitate tank washing, no additives containing Pollution Category X components shall be used except those components that are readily biodegradable and present in a total concentration of less than 10% of the cleaning additive. No restrictions additional to those applicable to the tank due to the previous cargo shall apply.”

2 Attached hereto are the revised tank cleaning additives guidance note and reporting form which were developed as a consequence of the revised MARPOL Annex II and approved by the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its fifty-sixth session (9 to 13 July 2007). The present circular supersedes MEPC/Circ.363.

3 Member Governments are invited to bring this information to the attention of those companies submitting data on tank cleaning additives to the BLG Sub-Committee through their Administrations in order to determine whether they meet the requirements of paragraph 13.5.2 of the revised MARPOL Annex II.

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**ANNEX****TANK CLEANING ADDITIVES GUIDANCE NOTE AND REPORTING FORM FOR  
THE SUBMISSION OF TANK CLEANING ADDITIVES DATA****INTRODUCTION**

A cleaning additive may be used for the cleaning of cargo tanks and associated piping systems on ships certified to carry Noxious Liquid Substances in bulk. It is used by adding it to the washwater in small amounts. Such cleaning additives are listed in annex 10 of the MEPC.2/Circular.

Cleaning agents referred to in regulation 13.5.1 of MARPOL Annex II fall outside the scope of these guidelines and their data should not be submitted for evaluation.

The use of cleaning additives is recorded in the Cargo Record Book as stated in Appendix 2 to MARPOL Annex II, "List of items to be recorded".

Tank cleaning additives are evaluated by the Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG) in order to protect the marine environment from adverse effects related to their use.

It is not the intention of the evaluation to determine the efficacy of the cleaning additives, but solely to determine their environmental acceptability by establishing whether the additives concerned meet the requirements of regulation 13.5.2 of MARPOL Annex II.

This document contains a guidance note and a form to facilitate the submission of data by manufacturers through their Governments.

**GUIDANCE NOTE**

1 The composition of the cleaning additive should be fully specified, so that it can be evaluated on the basis of its individual component(s).

2 The manufacturer shall provide the data for columns A1, A2 and B1 as well as available information on column D3 of the GESAMP Hazard Profile (GHP) for all individual components of the cleaning additive.

3 Components with Pollution Category X shall not exceed 10% of the total weight of the cleaning additive.

4 If a component falls within Pollution Category X, it shall be readily biodegradable (column A2=R).

5 Components considered as falling within the scope of MARPOL Annex I will be evaluated with a rating of "4" in column B1, in line with the procedure outlined in MEPC.1/Circ.512.

6 The component names used on the form shall be the correct technical names as used by GESAMP/EHS, which means that trade names are not acceptable.

- 7 The following procedure is applicable for the submission of cleaning additives:
- .1 if the components of a cleaning additive do not have the required GHP, the manufacturer submits these components to the GESAMP/EHS\* on an “owner pays principle”;
  - .2 GESAMP/EHS informs the manufacturer of the results of the evaluation of the components;
  - .3 the manufacturer submits to its Government the reporting form containing the full composition of the cleaning additive, listing all components with their associated GHP and supporting documentation, including usage instructions for NLS cargo tank cleaning;
  - .4 the Government brings the completed reporting form with supporting documentation to the attention of the BLG/ESPH Working Group;
  - .5 the BLG/ESPH Working Group evaluates the submission and, if it meets the criteria, proposes it for inclusion in the next edition of the MEPC.2/Circular;
  - .6 if the BLG/ESPH Working Group deems that the submission does not meet the criteria it is returned to the Government for onward transmission to the manufacturer.

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\* The completed form should be sent to:

The Technical Secretary of GESAMP/EHS Working Group  
International Maritime Organization (IMO)  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR  
United Kingdom

**REPORTING FORM FOR THE SUBMISSION OF DATA FOR THE EVALUATION  
OF NLS TANK CLEANING ADDITIVES**

**Confidential Data**

**Proprietary data and composition will be treated as confidential by the Government and their representatives who form the evaluating group within IMO.**

**Name of producing company**        :

**Name of the cleaning additive**        :

as they are to appear in annex 10 of the MEPC.2/Circular.

Has this cleaning additive been submitted before?        Yes         No

If "yes" give details of any changes.

Component No.	Component name (as used by GESAMP/EHS)	Weight %	GESAMP Hazard Profile			
			A1	A2	B1	D3
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						

Continuation sheets may be used when needed.

Typical rate of dilution in washwater required for proper use of the cleaning additive:    %  
(as stated by the manufacturer in the description of use).

ATTACH USAGE INSTRUCTIONS FOR NLS CARGO TANK CLEANING (if this information is not provided, this application will be rejected).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
          dd/mm/yy

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_