



MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

Issued by the Merchant Shipping Division, Sri Lanka

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NOTICE TO PORT AUTHORITIES, SHIP OWNERS, MANAGERS, OPERATORS, SHIPPING AGENTS, TRAINING INSTITUTES, MASTERS AND OFFICERS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED

DECISIONS TAKEN AT 61ST SESSION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE (MEPC) OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION FROM 27TH SEPTEMBER TO 1ST OCTOBER 2010

This circular informs the shipping community of the decisions taken by the MEPC during their 61st session at IMO

The *Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)* when it met for its 61st session from 27 September to 1 October, 2010 in London, progressed its work on a number of important issues, including the adoption of the revised MARPOL Annex III, the approval of a revised text for MARPOL Annex V, the implementation of the ballast water and ship recycling conventions and the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases from ships

Revised MARPOL Annex III to prevent pollution from packaged goods adopted

The revised MARPOL Annex III Regulations for the prevention of pollution by harmful substances carried by sea in packaged form was adopted by consensus during the session and is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2014 in order for changes to the Annex to coincide with the next update of the mandatory International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code, specifying that goods should be shipped in accordance with relevant provisions.

Revised MARPOL Annex V text approved

The MEPC approved, with a view to adoption at its next session, amendments to revise and update MARPOL Annex V Regulations for the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships, following a comprehensive review of this Annex.

The main changes include the updating of definitions; the inclusion of a new requirement specifying that discharge of all garbage into the sea is prohibited, except as expressly provided otherwise (the discharges permitted in certain circumstances