

**IMO**

**MARINE ENVIRONMENT  
PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**(MEPC)**

**82<sup>nd</sup> Session, 30 September – 04 October 2024**

**Session Outcome**



**IRCLASS**  
Indian Register of Shipping

## **MEPC 82**

The 82<sup>nd</sup> session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 82) was held at IMO Headquarters from 30<sup>th</sup> of September to 04<sup>th</sup> of October 2024. A summary of important outcome of MEPC 82 is given in the following.

### **Summary**

#### **MEPC 82 adopted the following:**

- ECAs on Canadian Arctic and Norwegian Sea.
- The amendment to the "Regulation 18.1 tab" in the "MARPOL Annex VI" GISIS module to include information on the availability of biofuels at ports, to have more transparent reporting framework.
- Guidelines on the reduction of Black Carbon emissions impact from international shipping in the Arctic.

#### **MEPC 82 approved the following:**

- Guidance on the application of the amendments to Appendix IX of MARPOL Annex VI to report data granularity.
- 2024 Guidance for Administrations on the type approval process for ballast water management systems (BWM.2/Circ.43/Rev.1).
- Guidance on ballast water record keeping and reporting.
- A two-step approach for the CII review.
- Amendments to the NOx TC 2008 regarding the certification of an existing engine subject to substantial modification and associated draft guidance on the content of the Engine Emission test plan to be issued as an MEPC circular and the same is expected to be adopted at MEPC 83.
  - The amendments to the NOx Technical Code 2008 on certification of an engine subject to substantial modification or to a Tier to which an installed engine is not certified, for adoption at MEPC 83
  - Finalized the guidance on the content of the Engine Emission Test Plan, to facilitate the implementation of the draft amendments to the NOx Technical Code 2008. This plan has to be agreed upon by the Administration before the test is scheduled. The guidance will be issued as a MEPC circular once the draft amendments to the NTC 2008 are adopted
- Draft amendments to MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008 on the use of multiple engine operational profiles (MEOPs), for adoption at MEPC 83.
  - Approved draft amendments to MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008 on the use of multiple engine operational profiles (MEOPs) for a marine diesel engine including clarifying engine test cycles, as agreed at PPR 11. The draft amendments will be adopted as part of the revised MARPOL Annex VI under development (mid-term measures) at MEPC 83.
- Designation of the Nusa Penida Islands and Gili Matra Islands in Lombok Strait as a PSSA.
- Guidelines on good practice relating to clean-up of plastic pellets from ship-source releases.
- Guidelines on the use and carriage of HFO in Arctic waters.
- Amendments concerning clarification of entries in data reporting required by Regulations 27 and 28 of MARPOL Annex VI.

#### **Deferred to PPR 12:**

- The finalization of the terms of reference for the re-establishment of the GESAMP Task team on EGCS to conduct further work on the development of unified and representative emission factors for use in the environmental risk assessment of the discharge water from EGCS, for establishment at MEPC 83
- The development of the concept of "polar fuels" standards which would reduce the impact of Black Carbon on the Arctic and that distillate-grade marine fuels such as DMA and DMZ would be suitable fuels. The Committee invites ISO to provide advice on such fuels and to develop in that sense a regulation for inclusion in MARPOL Annex VI to reduce the impact of Black Carbon on the Arctic

- The matter regarding the use of scrubbers as an alternative compliance mechanism under MARPOL Annex VI due to their adverse effects on the environment and human health.

## **A BRIEF OF RELEVANT TOPICS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED AT MEPC 82**

### **Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water (Agenda 4)**

In line with the Convention Review Plan for the experience-building phase associated with the BWM Convention (BWM.2/Circ.79), the Committee considered draft amendments to provisions of the BWM Convention and to associated instruments, with a view to adoption in 2026 and entry into force in 2027.

Discussions involved:

- the circumstances under which the discharge of unmanaged or partially managed ballast water and sediments may be allowed on the high seas or in any other designated areas (linked to regulation A-3)
- the most efficient and effective approach with regard to ballast water management system (BWMS) maintenance procedures, taking into account existing procedures for ships and their operational systems (related to regulations B-1, B-2 and E-1)
- standardization of data logs and export files of BWMS.
- minimum and/or maximum BWMS testing parameters, test water conditions and other test conditions.
- consideration and reporting of disinfection by-products (DBPs) including sampling and analysis.
- determination of the type of analysis of ballast water discharges during surveys (relating to regulation E-1).

### **Amendments to BWM.2/Circ.80 to provide guidance on ballast water record-keeping & reporting**

MEPC 81 adopted the resolution MEPC.387(81) on Interim guidance on the application of the BWM Convention to ships operating in challenging water quality conditions. This guidance recommends that bypass should always be considered as the last resort and contingency measures, such as Ballast Water Exchange + Ballast Water Treatment (BWE+BWT), should be implemented if necessary. The Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) should be used as far as practicable to treat ballast water with CWQ.

However, it was noted that the existing guidance on how to record CWQ situations in the BWRB (BWM.2/Circ.80) lacked clarity regarding operations, leading to increased non-compliance in ballast water record-keeping.

The Committee decided to amend BWM.2/Circ.80 introducing new guidance scenarios for both reactive and pre-emptive bypasses of the BWMS, to help ship crews record operational measures (such as BWE+BWT) when encountering water quality issues.

### **Implementation of the Hong Kong and Basel Conventions**

MEPC 82 approved a "Provisional" draft guidance on the implementation of the Hong Kong and Basel Conventions, with a need to secure a full implementation of the Hong Kong convention taking into account serious concerns regarding safety and environment expressed in plenary due to improper certification of several ship's breaking facilities in the Far East.

### **GHG reduction**

Following the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the ISWG-GHG which structured the strong divergences between the proposals on mid-term measures to implement the revised IMO strategy to decarbonize the shipping, MEPC 82 attempted to bridge the divide without striking any compromise. Moreover, the divergences expressed on the findings of the comprehensive impact assessment and the request to pursue the assessment on potential impacts of economic measures on food security hampered the expected finalization of the preparatory study and let a short time before approving new measures on GHG reduction at MEPC 83.

## **Provisional list of circulars approved by MEPC 82**

- AFS.3/Circ.6 2024 GUIDANCE ON BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR REMOVAL OF ANTI-FOULING COATINGS FROM SHIPS
- BWM.2/Circ.43/Rev.2 2024 GUIDANCE FOR ADMINISTRATIONS ON THE TYPE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
- BWM.2/Circ.80/Rev.1 2024 GUIDANCE ON BALLAST WATER RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING
- HKSRC.2/Circ.1 PROVISIONAL GUIDANCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HONG KONG AND BASEL CONVENTIONS REGARDING THE TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT OF SHIPS INTENDED FOR RECYCLING
- MEPC.1/Circ.590/Rev.1 REVISED TANK CLEANING ADDITIVES GUIDANCE NOTE AND REPORTING FORM
- MEPC.1/Circ.906/Rev.1 REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE REDUCTION OF UNDERWATER RADIATED NOISE FROM SHIPPING TO ADDRESS ADVERSE IMPACTS ON MARINE LIFE
- MEPC.1/Circ.913 GUIDANCE ON THE APPLICATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO APPENDIX IX OF MARPOL ANNEX VI (RESOLUTION MEPC.385(81))
- MEPC.1/Circ.914 SAMPLE FORMAT FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF COMPLIANCE PURSUANT TO REGULATION 5.4.5 OF MARPOL ANNEX VI
- MEPC.1/Circ.915 GUIDELINES ON MITIGATION MEASURES TO REDUCE RISKS OF USE AND CARRIAGE FOR USE OF HEAVY FUEL OIL AS FUEL BY SHIPS IN ARCTIC WATERS

For any queries, you can reach out to:

### ***External Affairs Department***

*Indian Register of Shipping*

*52A, Adi Shankaracharya Marg*

*Opp Powai Lake, Powai*

*Mumbai - 400072*

*Email: [exad@irclass.org](mailto:exad@irclass.org)*

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