



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Guidelines for the use of Electronic Record Books under MARPOL and Amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, V and VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Classification Societies

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to advise the parties concerned on the Guidelines for the use of Electronic Record Books under MARPOL and the amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, V, VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008, EEDI regulations for ice-strengthened ships and certification requirements for SCR system.

1. On 17 May 2019, the 74th Session of the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC 74) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, V, VI and the NOx Technical Code regarding the use of electronic record books, approved by the Administration, as alternative of hard copy record books under the MARPOL convention. MEPC 74 also adopted guidelines to support the use of electronic record books.
2. The amendments to MARPOL VI also re-defined the words “cargo ships having ice-breaking capability” under Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) regulations in order to align with the definition given in the Polar Code. Additionally, MEPC 74 adopted amendments to the NOx Technical Code concerning the certification requirements for selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems.
3. The adopted resolutions are exhibited as follows:
 - (a) Resolution MEPC.312(74) – Guidelines for the use of Electronic Record Books under MARPOL.
 - (b) Resolution MEPC.314(74) – Amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II and V (Electronic Record Books).
 - (c) Resolution MEPC.316(74) – Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI (Electronic Record Books and EEDI regulations for ice-strengthened ships).

(d) Resolution MEPC.317(74) – Amendments to the NO_x Technical Code 2008 (Electronic Record Books and Certification requirements for SCR systems).

4. The amendments to MARPOL Annex I, II, V, VI and the NO_x Technical Code are expected to be entered into force on 1 October 2020. The Guidelines for the use of electronic record books under MARPOL is invited to apply as soon as possible, or when the above-mentioned amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, V and VI and the NO_x Technical 2008 enter into force.

5. Copies of resolutions MEPC.312(74), MEPC.314(74), MEPC.316(74) and MEPC.317(74) can be found on the website of Marine Department (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as attachments to this Information Note.

6. Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Classification Societies are required to note the information provided in the documents and act accordingly.

7. Any enquiries in relation to this Merchant Shipping Information Note may be directed to the Senior Surveyor of the Maritime Policy Branch at telephone number 2852 4395 or by e-mail to “hkmpd@mardep.gov.hk”.

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