

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 72/2024

(Statutory Requirements)

Implementation of the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage) (Amendment) Regulation 2024

The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage) (Amendment) Regulation 2024 (the “Amendment Regulation”) will come into operation on 1 May 2024 to implement the amendments to Annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Annex V) as stipulated in resolution MEPC.360(79) adopted by the International Maritime Organization. Details of the Amendment Regulation can be found in the following link:-

<https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/2024/ln18!en>

2. The Amendment Regulation changes the tonnage requirement for a ship that has to keep a Garbage Record Book (GRB) and make entries for certain discharges of shipboard garbage from 400 gross tonnage (GT) to 100 GT. The new amendment applies to all new and existing local vessels which are:

- (i) of 100 GT or above and are certified to carry less than 15 persons; and
- (ii) of 100 GT or above and are certified to carry 15 or more persons and engaged in a voyage of more than one hour in duration.

3. Each discharge of shipboard garbage, whether into the sea or to a reception facility or another ship, shall be recorded in the GRB. The person in charge shall sign for the entry on the date of discharge. The coxswain shall sign on each completed page of the GRB.

4. The GRB can be obtained in the following ways:

- (i) to purchase at the Shroff of Central Marine Office of Marine Department at 3/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong;
- (ii) to order online from the Government Bookstore at this link – <http://www.isd.gov.hk/eng/bookorder.htm>; or
- (iii) to download from the Marine Department website at this link – <https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/materials-and-publications/useful-information/index.html>

5. Shipowners, operators and coxswains of local vessels are required to observe and comply with the requirements of the Amendment Regulation. For enquiries, please contact the Senior Surveyor of Ships / Environmental Policy at telephone number 2852 3905 or by e-mail to “hkmpd@mardep.gov.hk”.

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Marine Department

Government of the HKSAR

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