ELECTRONIC RECORD BOOKS FOR MARPOL RELATED RECORD KEEPING

Technical Notice MARPOL.7

Notice to Ship-owners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognized Organizations

The purpose of this Notice is to inform all interested stakeholders regarding the acceptance of electronic Record Books (e-RBs) on board Malta flagged vessels for record keeping requirements related to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention).

This Directorate recognises the burdens arising from the use of traditional paper versions of MARPOL record books and the complexity of recording proper operational entries.

Taking note of the amendments to the MARPOL Convention, IMO Guidance for the use of electronic record books under MARPOL (to be applicable also to the NOx Technical Code) currently being developed. Furthermore the Procedures for port State control, 2011 (Resolution A.1052(27)), and unified interpretation to MARPOL Annexes I, II V and VI are also under review in relation to the said use of electronic record books.

Pending the entry into force of the said Guidance, it is important to note that this Directorate, while accepting the use of e-RB onboard Malta flagged ships, would still require that a sequentially ordered print out of all entries in the e-RB, be signed by the officers in charge of the operations with each completed page, and signed and dated by the Master (may be electronically through the e-RB). Printed copies of the entries made into the e-RB shall, until further notice, continue to be considered as the official RB and must be made available for examination when requested by flag State and port State control inspectors.

Should the e-RB be maintained onboard, the following requirements must be met:

i) Each page of entries from the electronic system is to be printed in the format specified in the relevant Annex to the MARPOL Convention;

ii) A printed version of the following shall accompany the printed record book entries:
   a) Annex I, Appendix III-Form of Oil Record Book (ORB) 'Introduction', 'List of items to be Recorded (Part I)''List of items to be Recorded (Part II)' and 'Plan View of Cargo and Slop Tanks';
   b) Annex II, Appendix II-Form of Cargo Record Book (CRB) 'Introduction', 'List of items to be Recorded' and 'Plan View of Cargo and Slop Tanks';

Malta Transport Centre
Ħal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360
Email: mershipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt
www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration

c) Annex V, Appendix II - Form of Garbage Record Book (GRB) 'Introduction' Part I & II (as applicable), Garbage and garbage management, Description and entries to be made the GRB.

iii) Each printed entry to be physically signed by the Officer in Charge;
iv) Each printed page of entries to be physically signed by the Master;
v) Each page of entries to be sequentially numbered.

The printed version shall not have any handwritten corrections or additions that are not reflected in the e-RB. Any corrections or additions shall be done in the e-RB followed by the reprinting of the applicable pages.

Approvals of e-ORBs will be considered upon the entry into force of the above-mentioned IMO Guidance for the use of electronic record books under MARPOL.

Merchant Shipping Directorate 15 June 2018