

## Shipboard sewage management plan – declared ships

Under section 51 of the *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995* (the Act), a declared ship must have on board a shipboard sewage management plan. A maximum penalty of 850 penalty units applies to not keeping a shipboard sewage management plan on board. Further, if a ship has on board a shipboard sewage management plan but it is not fitted with any equipment required to implement the plan, the ship's owner and master commit an offence. A maximum penalty of 850 penalty units applies.

The minimum requirements to be detailed in a shipboard sewage management plan are listed in section 49 of the *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Regulation 2008* (the Regulation), these include:

- (a) name, registration number and class of the ship
- (b) size and type of the ship
- (c) how the plan provides for the management of shipboard sewage and prevents the unlawful discharge of sewage from the ship
- (d) equipment the ship is fitted with for holding or treating sewage
- (e) the waters, if any, where the ship may lawfully discharge sewage
- (f) how the equipment is operated to prevent the unlawful discharge of sewage into waters where the ship is operating
- (g) operating and maintenance instructions for the equipment
- (h) how the equipment is maintained and checked to ensure the equipment is in proper working order.

### Example of a possible format for a shipboard sewage management plan

<b>Shipboard sewage management plan</b>
<p><b>Ship name:</b> ..... <b>Registration number:</b> .....</p> <p><b>Class:</b> ..... <b>Size:</b> .....</p> <p><b>Ship type:</b> .....</p> <p><i>(Details of passenger numbers and length of journeys may also be included to provide a quick reference guide to inspection officers of the likely volumes of sewage generated on board.)</i></p>
<p><b>Onboard sewage management practices:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of how sewage is managed on board.</li> <li>• Untreated or treated sewage on board.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sewage equipment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The equipment, including model numbers and type, for managing sewage on board.</li> <li>• How equipment will be operated to prevent unlawful discharge.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Areas where sewage discharge is permitted:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of areas where the discharge of sewage from the ship is permitted.</li> <li>• Demonstrated understanding of nil discharge areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Operating and maintenance instructions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of operating and maintenance instructions.</li> <li>• Alternatively a description of where instructions can be found.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Equipment maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of maintenance schedule.</li> <li>• Details of routine measures to ensure equipment is in proper working order.</li> </ul>

## Sewage disposal record book – declared ships

Under section 51 of the Regulation a declared ship must carry a sewage disposal record book that is readily available for inspection at all times. A maximum penalty of 350 penalty units applies for failure to keep a sewage disposal record book.

This requirement only applies to the discharge of sewage at a sewage disposal facility, however operators of declared ships are encouraged to include details of whenever sewage is discharged from their vessels as a means to demonstrate a level of compliance with the nil discharge requirements.

### Entries in sewage disposal record book

Under section 52 of the Regulation whenever sewage is discharged into a disposal facility an entry must be made in the sewage disposal record book. A maximum penalty of 350 penalty units applies for failure to make an entry.

The entry in the sewage disposal record book must:

- (a) state the date, time, place, and volume, in litres, of each discharge
- (b) be made in the English language
- (c) be signed by the master or other person in control of the discharge.

When a page of the sewage disposal record book is completed the ships master must sign the page.

A maximum penalty of 350 penalty units applies for failure to sign page.

### Retention of a sewage disposal record book

Section 51 (3) of the Regulation requires the sewage disposal record book to kept on the declared ship for 3 years from the day of the last entry and is readily available for inspection.

A maximum penalty of 350 penalty units applies for failure to keep a sewage disposal record book.

### Example of format for a sewage disposal record book

	Date	Time	Place of discharge	Volume (in litres)	Entry made by	Initial
1						
2						
etc.						
			Signature by ship master:			

*(the ship master must sign the bottom of a completed page)*