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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shipboard sewage management plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ship name</strong>: ……………………………</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class</strong>: ……………………………</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ship type</strong>: …………………………..</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(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.)*

**Onboard sewage management practices:**
- Description of how sewage is managed on board.
- Untreated or treated sewage on board.

**Sewage equipment:**
- The equipment, including model numbers and type, for managing sewage on board.
- How equipment will be operated to prevent unlawful discharge.

**Areas where sewage discharge is permitted:**
- List of areas where the discharge of sewage from the ship is permitted.
- Demonstrated understanding of nil discharge areas.

**Operating and maintenance instructions**
- Details of operating and maintenance instructions.
- Alternatively a description of where instructions can be found.

**Equipment maintenance**
- Details of maintenance schedule.
- Details of routine measures to ensure equipment is in proper working order.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place of discharge</th>
<th>Volume (in litres)</th>
<th>Entry made by</th>
<th>Initial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signature by ship master:

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