



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° PSC 017
Rev 0

OILY BILGE WATER / OILY MIXTURE / OIL RESIDUES in Engine Room's Bilge

**TO: SHIPOWNERS & SHIPS' OPERATORS & MANAGERS
SURVEYORS TO FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATION**

Monaco, 11 Apr. 2006

Analysis of the Annual Flag State Inspection reports shows a recurrent deficiency: CLEANLESS OF THE ENGINE ROOM'S BILGE IS REQUIRED, or OILY BILGE WATER / OILY MIXTURE / OIL RESIDUES IN ENGINE ROOM'S BILGE.

Analysis of the Port State Control Inspections / Detention reports shows the same recurrent deficiency.

Oily mixture / oil residues in engine Room's Bilge is a hazard for fire in Engine Room. This is the reason why, often, this deficiency is judged as a clear ground for detention by port State Control Officer(s).

Whether during the carrying out of the Annual Flag State Inspection oily mixture / oil residues are detected in Engine Room's bilge the following actions to be taken.

Vessel is provided with a "Sludge Tank"

Emptying/cleaning of the engine room's bilge must be required before ship's departure.

Sludge tank to be sounded within the purpose to verify the amount of sludge stored inside.

If the sludge tank remaining capacity does not grant the possibility to store the sludge, existing sludge inside the tank must be discharged to the local reception facilities.

Oily mixture/oil residues in engine room's bilge to be worked by the OWS.

Capacity of sludge tank is determined according to MARPOL 73/78 requirements.

Vessel is provided with a "Holding Tank"

Emptying/cleaning of the engine room's bilge must be required before ship's departure.

Holding tank to be sounded within the purpose to verify the amount of oily bilge water stored inside.

If the holding tank remaining capacity does not grant the possibility to store the oily bilge water, existing oily bilge water inside the tank must be discharged to the local reception facilities.

Oily mixture / oil residues in engine room's bilge to be pumped into the holding tank.