



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° SOL 056

PROHIBITION OF THE BLENDING OF BULK LIQUID CARGOES AND PRODUCTION PROCESSES DURING SEA VOYAGES – NEW SOLAS REGULATION VI/5-2

**TO: SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS AND
MANAGERS AND MASTERS**
**APPLICABLE TO: OIL AND CHEMICAL TANKERS AND SHIPS WITH
INSTALLED PROCESS PLANT**

EFFECTIVE AS FROM: Date of this Circular

13th January 2014

The new regulation of SOLAS Chapter VI prohibits the physical blending of bulk liquid cargoes and production process during the sea voyage from 1st January, 2014. The Regulation VI/5-2 was adopted by the International Maritime Organisation at the 90th session of the Maritime Safety Committee through Resolution MSC.325 (90).

- a) The physical blending of bulk liquid cargoes during sea voyages is prohibited. Physical blending refers to the process whereby the ship's cargo pumps and pipelines are used to internally circulate two or more different cargoes with the intent to achieve a cargo with a new product designation. This prohibition does not preclude the master from undertaking cargo transfers for the safety of the ship or protection of the marine environment.
- b) The prohibition stated in point a) does not apply to the blending of products for use in the search and exploitation of seabed mineral resources on board ships used to facilitate such operations.
- c) Any production process on board a ship during sea voyages is prohibited. Production processes refer to any deliberate operation whereby a chemical reaction between a ship's cargo and any other substance or cargo takes place.
- d) The prohibition stated in point c) does not apply to the production processes of cargoes for use in the search and exploitation of seabed mineral resources on board ships used to facilitate such operations.*

* Refer to the Guidelines for the transport and handling of limited amounts of hazardous and noxious liquid substances in bulk in offshore support vessels (resolution A.673 (16), as amended).