NOTIFICATION TO THE ORGANIZATION ON PORTS OR TERMINALS
WHERE VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCs) EMISSIONS
ARE TO BE REGULATED

1   The Marine Environment Protection Committee at its forty-second session held from 2 to 6 November 1998, considered the provisions of regulation 15 of Annex VI to MARPOL 73/78. While recognizing that MARPOL 73/78 Annex VI is not yet in force, the Committee noted that some Member Governments intend to implement national regulations for control of VOCs emissions requiring Vapour Emission Control Systems.

2   The Committee noted that regulation 15 of Annex VI to MARPOL 73/78 requires Member Governments to inform the Organization of their intention to introduce the requirements for the use of such systems and notify the Organization on ports and terminals under their jurisdiction where such requirements are already in force. Notification should be submitted six months prior to the effective date of implementing such systems to allow tankers to timely fit required piping, etc.

3   The Committee further noted that there are several terminals that are already implementing or operating such practices. The Committee shared the concern that, since there is no circulation of such information, it is difficult for owners to prepare for these changes at ports and terminals.

4   Member Governments are invited to notify the Organization with information on ports and terminals under its jurisdiction at which VOCs emissions are to be regulated, and requirements to be imposed on ships calling at these ports and terminals.

5   With the aim of promoting full utilization of vapour recovery systems in ports and terminals, any information received by the Organization on the availability of vapour recovery systems will be circulated through MEPC circulars so that owners will have up-to-date information on existing or planned vapour recovery systems.

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