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MEPC/Circ.379
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RULES FOR THE ACCESS AND TRANSIT IN THE VENICE LAGOON

Communication from Italy

- 1 A communication dated 15 February 2001 has been received from the Italian Embassy in London transmitting the Directive No. GAB/2001/1719/BO1 of 13 February 2001 issued by the Minister for Environment, which sets out the rules for the access and transit in the Venice Lagoon of ships carrying dangerous materials as specified in the Annexes I and II of MARPOL 73/78.
- 2 The above communication is attached herewith for information.

OBJECT: Directive according to art. 7 of Italian law No. 239/1998, about tankers carrying harmful substances. Access and transit conditions in the Venice Lagoon.

Consequently to my directive No. GAB/2000/15781/B01 of December the 6th 2000, dealing with chemical and oil tankers access regulation in the Venice Lagoon, I dispose that, starting February the 15th 2001, relatively to ships 500 tons gross tonnage and above bearing products specified in Annexes I and II of MARPOL 73/78, the access and transit in the Venice Lagoon will be allowed only to ships having the following requirements, which are the lowest caution conditions in comparison with the potentially very serious environmental risks deriving from transport of the above mentioned products in such a really delicate ecosystem:

- double hulled units, according to regulation 13F of MARPOL 73/78;
- units less than 5000 DWT, carrying either crude oil or its products specified in Annexes I and II of MARPOL 73/78, provided with double bottom tanks or with cargo tanks fulfilling regulation 13F (7) point (b) of MARPOL 73/78, on condition that load is not charged in these spaces;
- chemical tankers, without distinction of displacement or loading capacity, equipped with lateral protective bottom load lacking partitions, whenever they transport (Appendixes B and C of Annex II of MARPOL 73/78);
- during a provisional period, from February the 15th 2001, and not further than December the 31st 2002, oil tankers bearing oil products, except crude oil, more than 5000 DWT up to 30000 DWT, provided with double bottom tanks or cargo tanks that fulfil regulation 13F (7) point (b) of MARPOL 73/78, on condition that load is not transported in double bottom spaces;
- during a provisional period, from February the 15th 2001, and not further than December 31st 2002, oil tankers bearing oil products, except crude oil, more than 30000 DWT, equipped with segregated ballast spaces and protective location (SBT/PL) according to the definition of regulation 13E of MARPOL 73/78.

Moreover, in the aim to assure maximum environmental guarantees for authorized transits in the Lagoon, I order that, from September the 1st 2001, the duty of so-called "tow-manoeuvre" within the Lagoon, as well as the duty of so-called "two-assistance", by means of technologically adequate units for the maximum environmental caution demands of the transit in object, will be extended to every chemical and oil tanker.

All ships having listed access and operativity requirements will be anyway able to approach and/or transit in the Lagoon only if inspected according to my previous directives No. GAB/2000/12649/B01 dated the 3rd of October 2000 and No. GAB/2000/13111/B01 dated the 16th October 2000, led by those Commands, even in collaboration with the National Fire Departments, time to time and before entering Lagoon water in order to verify the constant maintenance of all standards prescribed by existing laws to guarantee environmental safety. In presence of ships having the prescribed and above mentioned access and operativity requirements and already inspected with favourable outcome within previous six months in a communitary port, on the basis of procedures fixed at a communitary level, the inspection, led outside the Lagoon, will be limited to verify the possession of the prescribed certification. In presence of a ship not

having the access and operativity requirements according to the present directive, or in absence of a certification related to the mentioned inspections led in communitary ports and in presence of on board recognized features that do not guarantee the requested environmental safety conditions, the access in the Lagoon will be forbidden and my previous directive No. GAB/2000/13111/B01 dated 16th of October 2000 will be immediately applied.

With regard to lesser units up to 500 tons gross tonnage, from January the 1st 2002, the units built before 1960 will not be allowed to operate in the Lagoon of Venice. Units built after 1960 will be required to equip themselves of the following emergency devices in order to operate in the Lagoon:

- level indicator external to the tanks;
- overflow tanks with alarms or equivalent systems.

On the above mentioned lesser units up to 500 tons gross tonnage, the resistance state of cargo hoses and relative connections will have to be verified every six months.

Even in case of violations to the above mentioned prescriptions, related to smaller units up to 500 tons gross tonnage, the procedures specified in my previous directive No. GAB/2000/13111/B01 will be immediately applied.

The prescriptions of my previous directive No. GAB/2000/15781/B01 dated December 6th 2000, are fully replaced by the present directive.

Willer Bordon
