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Ref. T5/101

MEPC/Circ.410
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ANNEX IV OF MARPOL 73/78

Communication received from the Administration of the United States

A communication has been received from the Administration of the United States concerning its implementation plan to prepare United States flagged vessels trading internationally for the entry into force of Annex IV of MARPOL 73/78.

At the request of the Administration of the United States, the above-mentioned communication is circulated to Member States for their information.



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United States Coast Guard

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Mr. K. Sekimizu
Director, Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR United Kingdom

SEP 4 2008

Dear Mr. Sekimizu:

This letter is to advise the Organization of the U.S. implementation plan to prepare U.S. flagged vessels trading internationally for the pending entry into force of MARPOL 73/78 Annex IV. Although MARPOL 73/78 Annex IV has not been ratified by the United States, United States flagged vessels on international voyages and sailing in the waters of countries that have adopted MARPOL 73/78 Annex IV may need to demonstrate compliance with MARPOL 73/78 Annex IV requirements.

All U.S. vessels sailing internationally to countries signatory to MARPOL 73/78 Annex IV, should have an installed and operational U.S. Coast Guard approved Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) which meets the criteria of 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 159. The U.S. Coast Guard considers Coast Guard approved MSDs to be equivalent to MARPOL 73/78 Annex IV requirements.

Since the United States is not a party to MARPOL 73/78 Annex IV, the U.S. Coast Guard cannot issue official international convention certificates as a Flag State. However, in order to facilitate commerce and reduce confusion, the U.S. Coast Guard will issue a document certifying equivalent compliance with MARPOL 73/78 Annex IV. As an alternative, The Coast Guard *may* permit Authorized Classification Societies to issue Statements of Voluntary Compliance to vessels that met the provisions of MARPOL 73/78 Annex IV.

Thank you for bringing this implementation plan to the attention of IMO Member States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph J. Angelo".

JOSEPH J. ANGELO
Director of Standards
Marine Safety, Security & Environmental
Protection