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UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS TO MARPOL ANNEX VI

**Scope of application of regulation 15.6 and 15.7 of MARPOL Annex VI
(VOC management plan)**

- 1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its sixty-first session (27 September to 1 October 2010), approved a Unified Interpretation to MARPOL Annex VI on application of VOC management plan (paragraph 4.41 of document MEPC 61/24).
- 2 The Unified Interpretation, as approved by the Committee, is attached at annex hereto.

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION TO MARPOL ANNEX VI ON APPLICATION OF VOC MANAGEMENT PLAN

Regulation 15 – Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Regulations 15.6 and 15.7 read as follows:

"6 A tanker carrying crude oil shall have on board and implement a VOC management plan approved by the Administration. Such a plan shall be prepared taking into account the guidelines developed by the Organization. The plan shall be specific to each ship and shall at least:

- .1 provide written procedures for minimizing VOC emissions during the loading, sea passage and discharge of cargo;
- .2 give consideration to the additional VOC generated by crude oil washing;
- .3 identify a person responsible for implementing the plan; and
- .4 for ships on international voyages, be written in the working language of the master and officers and, if the working language of the master and officers is not English, French or Spanish, include a translation into one of these languages.

7 This regulation shall also apply to gas carriers only if the types of loading and containment systems allow safe retention of non-methane VOCs on board or their safe return ashore.[†]"

Interpretation:

The requirement for a VOC management plan applies only to a tanker carrying crude oil.

[†] Resolution MSC.30(61), International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk.