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MEPC.1/Circ.756
10 August 2011

**DATE OF TAKING EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS 13 AND 14 OF
MARPOL ANNEX VI ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION MEPC.202(62)**

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its sixtieth session (March 2010), adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, by resolution MEPC.190(60), to designate the North American emission control area for nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur oxides (SO_x) and particulate matter. These amendments entered into force on 1 August 2011.

2 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its sixty-second session (July 2011), adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, by resolution MEPC.202(62), to designate the United States Caribbean Sea emission control area for nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur oxides (SO_x) and particulate matter. MEPC 62 agreed that these amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2013, upon their acceptance in accordance with article 16 of the Convention.

3 Regulation 14.7 of MARPOL Annex VI specifies that "During the first twelve months immediately following entry into force of an amendment designating a specific emission control area under paragraph 3 of this regulation, ships operating in that emission control area are exempt from the requirements in paragraphs 4 and 6 of this regulation and from the requirements of paragraph 5 of this regulation insofar as they relate to paragraph 4 of this regulation".

4 In accordance with regulation 14.7, the requirement for the North American area as an emission control area under regulation 14 shall take full effect on 1 August 2012, and for the United States Caribbean Sea area shall take full effect on 1 January 2014.

5 Noting that the effective dates for such areas have not been specified in the adopted text of regulation 14.3, MEPC 62 requested the issuance of a circular announcing these dates in order to avoid any ambiguity.

6 Recognizing that the said amendments to regulation 14.3 of MARPOL Annex VI enter into force in accordance with the amendment procedure as prescribed in article 16(2)(d) of the MARPOL Convention, MEPC 62 urged Member Governments to take early action before the amendments come into force.

7 Member Governments are invited to bring this circular to the attention of their Administrations, relevant shipping organizations, recognized organizations, shipping companies and other stakeholders concerned.