



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-013-4

Jul/2021

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Approval for Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plans for Oil and/or
Noxious Liquid Substances**

- References:**
- (a) **MARPOL**, *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, Consolidated Edition 2017*, as amended
 - (b) **IMO Resolution [A.851\(20\)](#)**, *General principles for ship reporting systems and ship reporting requirements, including guidelines for reporting incidents involving dangerous goods, harmful substances and/or marine pollutants*, adopted 27 November 1997, as amended by Resolution **[MEPC.138\(53\)](#)**, adopted 22 July 2005
 - (c) **IMO Resolution [MEPC.54\(32\)](#)**, *Guidelines for the development of shipboard marine pollution emergency plans*, adopted 6 March 1992, as amended by **[MEPC.86\(44\)](#)**, adopted 13 March 2000
 - (d) **IMO Resolution [MEPC.85\(44\)](#)**, *Guidelines for the development of shipboard marine pollution emergency plans for oil and/or noxious liquid substances*, adopted 13 March 2000, as amended by **[MEPC.137\(53\)](#)**, adopted 22 July 2005
 - (e) **RMI Marine Guideline [2-11-15](#)**, *Organizations Acting on Behalf of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator*

PURPOSE

This Notice provides the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) policy on approval of a Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (SOPEP) and the combined Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan (SMPEP). This Notice replaces Rev. Apr/2021.

Section 4 was amended to incorporate SOPEP and SMPEP approval services offered by the Administrator.

APPLICABILITY

This Marine Notice applies to the following RMI-flagged vessels:

1. every oil tanker of 150 gross tonnage (GT) and above and every ship other than an oil tanker of 400 GT and above; and
2. every ship over 150 GT certified to carry noxious liquid substances.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan

- 1.1. Every oil tanker of 150 GT and above and every ship other than an oil tanker of 400 GT and above must carry on board a SOPEP in accordance with MARPOL Regulation I/37.1.
- 1.2 All oil tankers of 5,000 tons deadweight or more must have prompt access to computerized shore-based emergency response service (ERS) offering 24/7 damage stability and residual structural strength calculations for the ship in accordance with MARPOL Regulation I/37.4. Contact details of the entity¹ providing ERS must be inserted in the list of ship interest contacts that is appended to the approved plan.

2.0 Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan

Every ship of 150 GT and above certified to carry noxious liquid substances in bulk must carry on board a SMPEP for noxious liquid substances prepared in accordance with MARPOL Annex I/37.3, and Annex II/17.1 and II/17.3. The SOPEP and SMPEP may be combined. In such a case, the title of the plan must be “Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan.” It must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines of Resolution [MEPC.85\(44\)](#), as amended.

3.0 Regional, Port and Coastal State Requirements

- 3.1 The plan must contain the latest list of national operational contacts responsible for the receipt, transmission and processing of urgent reports on incidents on harmful substances including oil from ships to coastal states. For this contact information see [MSC-MEPC.6/Circ.](#) (updated quarterly) or [Global Integrated Shipping Information System](#),² Contact Points module.
- 3.2 To avoid any delay in contacting the responsible authority, the master should contact the nearest coastal radio station, designated ship movement reporting station, or rescue coordination center by the quickest available means.

1. See IACS Recommendation No. 145 for the Operation of Shore-Based Emergency Response Services.

2. Registration is free.

- 3.3 RMI-flagged vessels must follow any applicable regional, port, and coastal State requirements for prevention, preparedness, and response to pollution. This would include, for example, United States Coast Guard (USCG) Vessel Response Plan (VRP) requirements³.

4.0 Plan Development and Approval

4.1 General

Plans must be approved by the Administrator or an RMI-authorized Recognized Organization (RO)⁴. Vessel owners and operators may contact the Administrator at msc@register-iri.com or the respective RO for guidance on the development and approval of these plans.

4.2 Change of Flag or Class

- .1 A SOPEP or SMPEP previously approved does not need to be re-approved if the approval was done by an RMI-authorized RO or if the losing flag State Administration is a Party to MARPOL. However, the attending surveyor must verify and endorse that necessary revisions have been made to reflect the RMI as the flag State. This includes verifying that the port of registry and call sign as part of the vessel's particulars page has been updated. The RO must maintain a copy of the endorsed SOPEP or SMPEP in its files.
- .2 The Administrator must be consulted if the plan approval was not previously done by an RMI-authorized RO, or if the losing flag State is not a Party to MARPOL. The gaining RO must contact the Administrator at: technical@register-iri.com or yachttec@register-iri.com, as appropriate.
- .3 SOPEP and SMPEP re-approval by the Administrator or RMI-authorized RO is required when there is a change of management.

3. Information on USCG VRP can be found on the homeport website:
<https://homeport.uscg.mil/missions/vrp-status-board>.

4. See RMI MG-[2-11-15](#) which includes Classification Societies and Appointed Representatives.