

**SCHEDULE TO  
THE ORDER  
  
THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT 1995  
  
PART VI  
  
PREVENTION OF POLLUTION  
  
CHAPTER IV  
  
INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUND**

*Preliminary*

**Meaning of the “Liability Convention”, “the Fund Convention” and related expressions.**

**172.—**(1) In this Chapter –

- (a) “the Liability convention” has the same meaning as in Chapter III of this Part;
- (b) “the Fund Convention” means the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1992;
- (c) “the fund” means the International Fund established by the Fund Convention; and
- (d) “Fund Convention country” means a country in respect of which the Fund Convention is in force, and includes the United Kingdom and any relevant British possession to which the Fund Convention has been extended.

(2) If Her Majesty by Order in Council declares that any State specified in the Order is a party to the Fund Convention in respect of any country so specified, the Order shall, while in force, be conclusive evidence that that State is a party to that Convention in respect of that country.

*Contributions to Fund*

**Contributions by importers of oil and others.**

**173.—**(1) Contributions shall be payable to the Fund in respect of oil carried by sea to ports or terminal installations in the Virgin Islands otherwise than on a voyage only within waters landward of the baselines for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea of the Virgin Islands.

(2) Subsection (1) above applies whether or not the oil is being imported, and applies even if contributions are payable in respect of carriage of the same oil on a previous voyage.

(3) Contributions shall also be payable to the Fund in respect of oil when first received in any installation in the Virgin Islands after having been carried by sea and discharged in a port or terminal installation in a country which is not a Fund Convention country.

(4) The person liable to pay contributions is –

- (a) in the case of oil which is being imported into the Virgin Islands, the importer, and
- (b) otherwise, the person by whom the oil is received.

(5) A person shall not be liable to make contributions in respect of oil imported or received by him in any year if the oil so imported or received in the year does not exceed 150,000 tonnes.

(6) For the purpose of subsection (5) above –

- (a) all the members of a group of companies shall be treated as a single person, and

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- (b) any two or more companies which have been amalgamated into a single company shall be treated as the same person as that single company.
- (7) The contributions payable by a person for any year shall –
  - (a) be of such amount as may be determined by the Director of the Fund under Article 12 of the Fund Convention and notified to that person by the Fund;
  - (b) be payable in such instalments, becoming due at such times, as may be so notified to him; and if any amount due from him remains unpaid after the date on which it became due, it shall from then on bear interest, at a rate determined from time to time by the Assembly of the Fund, until it is paid.
- (8) The Governor may by regulations impose on persons who are or may be likely to pay contributions under this section obligations to give security for payment to the Governor, or the Fund.
- (9) Regulations under subsection (8) above –
  - (a) may contain such supplemental or incidental provisions as appear to the Governor expedient,
  - (b) may impose penalties for contravention for the regulations punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or such lower limit as may be specified in the regulations.
- (10) In this section and in section 174, unless the context otherwise requires –
  - “company” means a body incorporated under the law of the Virgin Islands, or of any other country;
  - “group” in relation to companies, means a holding company and any subsidiary or commonly controlled entity, subject, in the case of a company incorporated outside the Virgin Islands, to any necessary modifications of those definitions;
  - “importer” means the person by whom or on whose behalf the oil in question is entered for customs or excise purposes on importation, and “import” shall be construed accordingly;
  - “oil” means crude oil and fuel oil, and
    - (a) “crude oil” means any liquid hydrocarbon mixture occurring naturally in the earth whether or not treated to render it suitable for transportation, and includes –
      - (i) crude oil from which distillate fractions have been removed, and
      - (ii) crude oil to which distillate fractions have been added,
    - (b) “fuel oil” means heavy distillates or residues from crude oil or blends of such materials intended for use as a fuel for the production of heat or power of a quality equivalent to the “American Society for Testing and Materials' Specification for Number Four Fuel Oil (Designation D396-69)”, or heavier,
  - “terminal installation” means any site for the storage of oil in bulk which is capable of receiving oil from waterborne transportation, including any facility situated offshore and linked to any such site.

**Power to obtain information.**

**174.**—(1) For the purpose of transmitting to the Fund the names and addresses of the persons who under section 173 are liable to make contributions to the Fund for any year, and the quantity of oil in respect of which they are so liable, the Governor may by notice require any person engaged in producing, treating, distributing or transporting oil to furnish such information as may be specified in the notice.

(2) A notice under this section may require a company to give such information as may be required to ascertain whether its liability is affected by section 173(6).

(3) A notice under this section may specify the way in which, and the time within which, it is to be complied with.

(4) In proceedings by the Fund against any person to recover any amount due under section 173, particulars contained in any list transmitted by the Governor to the Fund shall, so far as those particulars are based on information obtained under this section, be admissible as evidence of the facts stated in the list; and so far as particulars which are so admissible are based on information given by the person against whom the proceedings are brought, those particulars shall be presumed to be accurate until the contrary is proved.

(5) If a person discloses any information which has been furnished to or obtained by him under this section, or in connection with the execution of this section, then, unless the disclosure is made –

- (a) with the consent of the person from whom the information was obtained, or
- (b) in connection with the execution of this section, or
- (c) for the purposes of any legal proceedings arising out of this section or of any report of such proceedings,

he shall be liable on summary conviction to a Fine not exceeding \$20,000.

(6) A person who –

- (a) refuses or wilfully neglects to comply with a notice under this section, or
- (b) in furnishing any information in compliance with a notice under this section makes any statement which he knows to be false in a material particular, or recklessly makes any statement which is false in a material particular,

shall be liable –

- (i) on summary conviction, to a Fine not exceeding \$25,000 in the case of an offence under paragraph (a) above and not exceeding \$20,000 in the case of an offence under paragraph (b) above, and
- (ii) on conviction on indictment, to a Fine, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, or both.

#### *Compensation for persons suffering pollution damage*

#### **Liability of the Fund.**

**175.**—(1) The Fund shall be liable for pollution damage in the territory of the Virgin Islands if the person suffering the damage has been unable to obtain full compensation under section 153—

- (a) because the discharge or escape, or the relevant threat of contamination, by reason of which the damage was caused –
  - (i) resulted from an exceptional, inevitable and irresistible phenomenon, or
  - (ii) was due wholly to anything done or omitted to be done by another person (not being a servant or agent of the owner) with intent to do damage, or
  - (iii) was due wholly to the negligence or wrongful act of a government or other authority in exercising its function of maintaining lights or other navigational aids for the maintenance of which it was responsible,
- (and because liability is accordingly wholly displaced by section 155), or
- (b) because the owner or guarantor liable for the damage cannot meet his obligations in full, or
- (c) because the damage exceeds the liability under section 153 as limited by section 157.

(2) Subsection (1) above shall apply with the substitution for the words “Virgin Islands” of the words “a Fund Convention country” where the incident has caused pollution damage in the territory

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of the Virgin Islands and of another Fund Convention country, and proceedings under the Liability Convention for compensation for the pollution damage have been brought in a country which is not a Fund Convention country or in the Virgin Islands.

(3) Where the incident has caused pollution damage in the territory of the Virgin Islands and of another country in respect of which the Liability Convention is in force, references in this section to the provisions of Chapter III of this part shall include references to the corresponding provisions of the law of any country giving effect to the Liability Convention.

(4) ... ..

(5) For the purposes of this section an owner or guarantor is to be treated as incapable of meeting his obligations if the obligations have not been met after all reasonable steps to pursue the legal remedies available have been taken.

(6) Expenses reasonably incurred, and sacrifices reasonably made, by the owner voluntarily to prevent or minimise pollution damage shall be treated as pollution damage for the purpose of this section, and accordingly he shall be in the same position with respect to claims against the Fund under this section as if he had a claim in respect of liability under section 153.

(7) The Fund shall incur no obligation under this section if –

(a) it proves that the pollution damage –

(i) resulted from an act of war, hostilities, civil war or insurrection, or

(ii) was caused by oil which has escaped or been discharged from a warship or other ship owned or operated by a State and used, at the time of the occurrence, only on Government non-commercial service, or

(b) the claimant cannot prove that the damage resulted from an occurrence involving a ship identified by him, or involving two or more ships one of which is identified by him.

(8) If the Fund proves that the pollution damage resulted wholly or partly –

(a) from anything done or omitted to be done with intent to cause damage by the person who suffered the damage, or

(b) from the negligence of that person,

the Fund may (subject to subsection (10) below) be exonerated wholly or partly from its obligations to pay compensation to that person,

(9) Where the liability under section 153 in respect of the pollution damage is limited to any extent by subsection (8) of that section, the Fund shall (subject to subsection (10) below) be exonerated to the same extent.

(10) Subsections (8) and (9) above shall not apply where the pollution damage consists of the costs of preventive measures or any damage caused by such measures.

#### **Limitation of Fund's liability under section 175.**

**176.**—(1) The Fund's liability under section 175 shall be subject to the limits imposed by paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 4 of the Fund Convention (which impose an overall limit on the liabilities of the Fund and the text of which is set out in Part I of Schedule 5), and in those provisions references to the Liability Convention are references to the Liability Convention within the meaning of this Chapter.

(2) A Certificate given by the Director of the Fund stating that subparagraph (c) of paragraph 4 of Article 4 of the Fund Convention is applicable to any claim under section 175 shall be conclusive evidence for the purpose of this Chapter that it is so applicable.

(3) For the purpose of giving effect to paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 4 of the Fund Convention a court giving judgment against the Fund in proceedings under section 175 shall notify the Fund, and –

- (a) no steps shall be taken to enforce the judgment unless and until the court gives leave to enforce it,
- (b) that leave shall not be given unless and until the Fund notifies the court either that the amount of the claim is not to be reduced under those paragraphs, or that it is to be reduced to a specified amount, and
- (c) in the latter case the judgment shall be enforceable only for the reduced amount.

(4) Any steps taken to obtain payment of an amount or a reduced amount in pursuance of such a judgment as is mentioned in subsection (3) above shall be steps to obtain payment in dollars; and –

- (a) for the purpose of converting such an amount from special drawing rights into dollars one special drawing right shall be treated as equal to such a sum in dollars as the International Monetary Fund have Fixed as being the equivalent of one special drawing right for –
  - (i) the relevant day, namely the day on which the Assembly of the Fund decide the date for the First payment of compensation in respect of the incident, or
  - (ii) if no sum has been so Fixed for the relevant day, the last day before that day for which a sum has been so Fixed; and
- (b) a certificate given by or on behalf of the Ministry of Finance stating –
  - (i) that a particular sum in dollars has been so Fixed for the relevant day, or
  - (ii) that no sum has been so Fixed for the relevant day, and that a particular sum in dollars has been so Fixed for a day which is the last day for which a sum has been so Fixed before the relevant day,

Shall be conclusive evidence of those matters for the purpose of this Chapter.

(5) The Secretary of State may by order make such amendments of this section and Part I of Schedule 5 as appear to him to be appropriate for the purpose of giving effect to the entry into force of any amendment of the provisions set out in that Schedule.

(6) Any document purporting to be such a certificate as is mentioned in subsection (2) or (4) (b) above shall, in any legal proceedings, be received in evidence and, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be such a certificate.

### *Supplemental*

#### **Jurisdiction and effect of judgments.**

**177.**—(1) Paragraph (d) of Section 1(1) to the Administration of Justice Act 1956 as applied in the Virgin Islands by the Admiralty Jurisdiction (Virgin Islands) Order 1961<sup>(1)</sup> shall be construed as extending to any claim in respect of a liability falling on the Fund under this Chapter.

(2) Where in accordance with rules of court made for the purpose of this subsection the Fund has been given notice of proceedings brought against an owner or guarantor in respect of liability under section 153, any judgment given in the proceedings shall, after it has become final and enforceable, become binding upon the Fund in the sense that the facts and evidence in the judgment may not be disputed by the Fund even if the Fund has not intervened in the proceedings.

(3) Where a person incurs a liability under the law of a Fund Convention country corresponding to Chapter III of this Part for damage which is partly in the territory of the Virgin Islands,

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(1) S.I.1961/2033 amended by S.I. 1965/130: By virtue of section 17(2)(b) of the Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c. 30). S.I. 1961/2033 has effect as if made under section 150(2) and (3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 (1981 c. 54).

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subsection (2) above shall, for the purpose of proceedings under this Chapter, apply with any necessary modifications to a judgment in proceedings under that law of the said country.

(4) Subject to subsection (5) below, the Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance 1964 shall apply, whether or not it would so apply apart from this subsection, to any judgment given by a court in a Fund Convention country to enforce a claim in respect of liability incurred under any provision corresponding to section 175; and in its application to such a judgment the said Ordinance shall have effect with the omission of subsections (2) and (3) of section 6.

(5) No steps shall be taken to enforce such a judgment unless and until the court in which it is registered under the 1964 Ordinance gives leave to enforce it; and –

- (a) that leave shall not be given unless and until the Fund notifies the court either that the amount of the claim is not to be reduced under paragraph 4 of Article 4 of the Fund Convention (as set out in Part I of Schedule 5) or that it is to be reduced to a specified amount; and
- (b) in the latter case, the judgment shall be enforceable only for the reduced amount.

#### **Extinguishments of claims.**

**178.**—(1) No action to enforce a claim against the Fund under this Chapter shall be entertained by a court in the Virgin Islands unless –

- (a) the action is commenced, or
- (b) a third party notice of action to enforce a claim against the owner or his guarantor in respect of the same damage is given to the Fund,

not later than three years after the claim against the Fund arose. In this subsection “third party notice” means a notice of the kind described in section 177(2) and (3).

(2) No action to enforce a claim against the Fund under this Chapter shall be entertained by a court in the Virgin Islands unless the action is commenced not later than six years after the occurrence, or First of the occurrences, resulting in the discharge or escape or (as the case may be) in the relevant threat of contamination, by reason of which the claim against the Fund arose.

#### **Subrogation.**

**179.**—(1) In respect of any sum paid by the Fund as compensation for pollution damage the Fund shall acquire by subrogation any rights in respect of the damage which the recipient has (or but for the payment would have) against any other person.

(2) In respect of any sum paid by a public authority in the Virgin Islands as compensation for pollution damage, that authority shall acquire by subrogation any rights which the recipient has against the Fund under this Chapter.

#### **Supplementary provisions as to proceedings involving the Fund.**

**180.**—(1) Any proceedings by or against the Fund may either be instituted by or against the Fund in its own name or be instituted by or against the Director of the Fund as the Fund’s representative.

(2) Evidence of any instrument issued by any organ of the Fund or of any document in the custody of the Fund, or any entry in or extract from such a document, may be given in any legal proceedings by production of a copy certified as a true copy by an official of the Fund; and any document purporting to be such a copy shall, in any such proceedings, be received in evidence without proof of the official position or handwriting of the person signing the certificate.

## Interpretation.

**181.—**(1) In this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires –

“damage” includes loss;

“discharge or escape”, in relation to pollution damage, means the discharge or escape of oil from the ship;

“dollars” means United States dollars;

“guarantor” means any person providing insurance or other financial security to cover the owner’s liability of the kind described in section 163;

“incident” means any occurrence, or series of occurrences having the same origin, resulting in a discharge or escape of oil from a ship or in a relevant threat of contaminations;

“oil” except in section 173 and 174, means persistent hydrocarbon mineral oil;

“owner” means the person or persons registered as the owner of the ship or, in the absence of registration, the person or persons owning the ship, except that, in relation to a ship owned by a State which is operated by a person registered as the ship’s operator, it means the person registered as its operator;

“pollution damage” means –

- (a) damage caused outside a ship by contamination resulting from a discharge or escape of oil from the ship,
- (b) the cost of preventive measures, and
- (c) further damage caused by preventive measures, but does not include any damage attributable to any impairment of the environment except to the extent that any such damage consists of –
  - (i) any loss of profits, or
  - (ii) the cost of any reasonable measures of reinstatement actually taken or to be taken;

“preventive measures” means any reasonable measures taken by any person to prevent or minimise pollution damage, being measures taken —

- (a) after an incident has occurred, or
- (b) in the case of an incident consisting of a series of occurrences, after the First of those occurrences;

“relevant threat of contamination” means a grave and imminent threat of damage being caused outside a ship by contamination resulting from a discharge or escape of oil from the ship; and

“ship” means any ship (within the meaning of Chapter III of this Part) to which section 153 applies.

(2) For the purposes of this Chapter –

- (a) references to a discharge or escape of oil from a ship are references to such a discharge or escape wherever it may occur, and whether it is of oil carried in a cargo tank or of oil carried in a bunker fuel tank; and
- (b) where more than one discharge or escape results from the same occurrence or from a series of occurrences having the same origin, they shall be treated as one.

(3) References in this Chapter to the territory of any country shall be construed in accordance with section 170(4) reading the reference to a Liability Convention country as a reference to a Fund Convention country.