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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2008 No. 3257**

**The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage and Garbage from Ships) Regulations 2008**

**PART 4**

**Discharge of Sewage**

**Prohibition against discharging sewage from a ship into the sea**

**23.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (3) and regulations 24 and 25, the discharge of sewage from a ship to which this regulation applies into the sea is prohibited.

(2) Where the sewage is mixed with wastes or waste water covered by an Annex to the Convention other than Annex IV, paragraph (1) applies in addition to any statutory prohibition or requirement which relates to those wastes or waste waters and which implements that other Annex.

(3) This regulation does not apply to an old ship if it complies with regulation 21(2).

**Exception for a ship equipped with a sewage treatment plant**

**24.** Sewage may be discharged from a ship into the sea if—

- (a) the sewage is discharged through and treated by a sewage treatment plant operating on the ship, which plant complies with regulation 21(1)(a),
- (b) the Sewage Certificate in respect of that ship contains the test results of the sewage treatment plant, and
- (c) as a result of the discharge—
  - (i) there are no visible floating solids, and
  - (ii) there is no discoloration of the water into which the sewage is discharged.

**Exception for other ships**

**25.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), treated sewage may be discharged from a ship into the sea if—

- (a) the system used complies with regulation 21(1)(b); and
- (b) the sewage is discharged at a distance of more than three nautical miles from the nearest land.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), sewage which is not treated may be discharged from a ship into the sea if the sewage is discharged at a distance of more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land.

(3) Where—

- (a) treated sewage; or
- (b) sewage which is not treated,

has been stored in a holding tank, or originates from spaces containing living animals, the sewage must not be discharged instantaneously but must be discharged at a rate which is no greater than the

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rate specified for these purposes in Schedule 2 to Merchant Shipping Notice MSN No. 1807 whilst the ship is en route and proceeding at not less than four knots.

(4) For the purposes of this regulation—

- (a) a ship is en route if it is under way at sea on a course which so far as practicable for navigational purposes will cause any discharge to be spread over as great an area of the sea as is reasonably practicable; and
- (b) “treated sewage” means sewage which is both comminuted and disinfected, and “sewage which is not treated” is to be construed accordingly.