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*Status: Point in time view as at 29/07/2022.*

*Changes to legislation: Merchant Shipping Act 1995, Paragraph 163 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 31 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

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## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 4

#### PREVENTION OF OIL POLLUTION: TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

##### CHAPTER III

##### LIABILITY FOR OIL POLLUTION

###### *Compulsory insurance*

###### *Compulsory insurance against liability for pollution.*

- 163 (1) Subject to the provisions of this Chapter relating to Government ships, subsection (2) below shall apply to any ship carrying in bulk a cargo of more than 2,000 tons of persistent oil of a description specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (2) The ship shall not enter or leave a port in the United Kingdom or arrive at or leave a terminal in the territorial sea of the United Kingdom nor, if the ship is a United Kingdom ship, a port in any other country or a terminal in the territorial sea of any other country, unless there is in force a certificate complying with the provisions of subsection (3) below and showing that there is in force in respect of the ship a contract of insurance or other security satisfying the requirements of Article VII of the Liability Convention (cover for owner's liability).

For the purposes of this subsection the reference in Article VII to Article V of the Liability Convention shall be construed as a reference to Article V as amended by Article II of the protocol dated 19th November 1976 to the Liability Convention.

- (3) The certificate must be—
- (a) if the ship is a United Kingdom ship, a certificate issued by the Secretary of State;
  - (b) if the ship is registered in a Liability Convention country other than the United Kingdom, a certificate issued by or under the authority of the government of the other Liability Convention country; and
  - (c) if the ship is registered in a country which is not a Liability Convention country, a certificate issued by the Secretary of State or a certificate recognised for the purposes of this paragraph by regulations made under this section.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that certificates in respect of ships registered in any, or any specified, country which is not a Liability Convention country shall, in such circumstances as may be specified in the regulations, be recognised for the purposes of subsection (3)(c) above if issued by or under the authority of the government of the country designated in the regulations for that

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- purpose; and the country that may be so designated may be either or both of the following, that is to say—
- (a) the country in which the ship is registered; and
  - (b) any country specified in the regulations for the purposes of this paragraph.
- (5) Any certificate required by this section to be in force in respect of a ship shall be carried in the ship and shall, on demand, be produced by the master to any officer of customs and excise or of the Secretary of State and, if the ship is a United Kingdom ship, to any proper officer.
- (6) If a ship enters or leaves, or attempts to enter or leave, a port or arrives at or leaves, or attempts to arrive at or leave, a terminal in contravention of subsection (2) above, the master or owner shall be liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £50,000;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine.
- (7) If a ship fails to carry, or the master of a ship fails to produce, a certificate as required by subsection (5) above, the master shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
- (8) If a ship attempts to leave a port in the United Kingdom in contravention of this section the ship may be detained.

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