
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2020 No. 620

**The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution
by Sewage from Ships) Regulations 2020**

PART 5

Enforcement

General provisions on detention

26.—(1) Where—

- (a) a determination is made of the kind mentioned in regulation 22(1) (procedure to be adopted when a ship is deficient) in relation to a ship; or
- (b) a surveyor of ships has clear grounds for believing that—
 - (i) a Sewage Certificate is required to have been issued in respect of a ship but has not been issued, or has been issued but is not valid;
 - (ii) appropriate documentation is required to have been issued in respect of a ship but has not been issued, or has been issued but is not valid;
 - (iii) the condition of a ship or its equipment does not correspond substantially with the particulars of that Certificate or other appropriate documentation;
 - (iv) the master or crew of a ship are not familiar with essential shipboard procedures relating to the prevention of pollution by sewage; or
 - (v) an offence under regulation 30(1) (offences) is being committed in respect of a ship,

the ship is liable to be detained until a surveyor of ships is satisfied that it can proceed to sea without presenting an unreasonable threat of harm to the marine environment.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a person having powers to detain a ship may permit a ship which is liable to be detained under paragraph (1) to proceed to sea for the purpose of proceeding to the nearest appropriate repair yard available.

(3) Where a surveyor of ships has clear grounds for believing that an offence under regulation 30(1)(d) or (e) (offences) has been committed in respect of a ship, the ship is liable to be detained.

(4) The power under this regulation to detain a ship may only be exercised if the ship is—

- (a) in a port in the United Kingdom;
- (b) at an offshore terminal in United Kingdom waters or controlled waters;
- (c) a fixed platform in United Kingdom waters or controlled waters; or
- (d) a floating platform in United Kingdom waters or controlled waters, other than a floating platform which is in transit.

(5) Section 284 of the 1995 Act(1) (enforcing detention of a ship) applies where a ship is liable to be detained under the preceding provisions of this regulation as if—

- (a) references to detention of a ship under the 1995 Act were references to detention of the ship in question under the preceding provisions of this regulation; and
- (b) subsection (7) were omitted.

(6) Where a ship is liable to be detained under the preceding provisions of this regulation, the person detaining the ship must serve on the master of the ship a detention notice which—

- (a) states the grounds for the detention; and
- (b) requires the terms of the notice to be complied with until the ship is released by any person mentioned in section 284(1) of the 1995 Act.

(7) Where a ship other than a United Kingdom ship is detained, the Secretary of State must immediately inform a diplomatic representative of the ship's flag State or the appropriate maritime authorities of that State.

(8) Where a ship is detained under paragraph (3), a person having power to detain the ship must, at the request of the owner, manager, demise charterer or master, immediately release the ship—

- (a) if no proceedings for an offence under regulation 30(1)(d) or (e) (offences) are instituted within the period of seven days beginning with the day on which the ship is detained;
- (b) if proceedings for an offence under regulation 30(1)(d) or (e) (offences), having been instituted within that period, are concluded without the owner, manager, demise charterer or master being convicted;
- (c) if either—
 - (i) the sum of £30,000 is paid to the Secretary of State by way of security; or
 - (ii) security which, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, is satisfactory and is for an amount not less than £30,000 is given to the Secretary of State,

by or on behalf of the owner, manager, demise charterer or master;

- (d) where the owner, manager, demise charterer or master is convicted of an offence under regulation 30(1)(d) or (e) (offences), if any costs or expenses ordered to be paid by that person, and any fine imposed on that person, have been paid; or
- (e) the release is ordered by a court or tribunal referred to in Article 292 of UNCLOS, and any bond or other financial security ordered by such court or tribunal is posted.

(9) The Secretary of State must repay any sum paid in pursuance of paragraph (8)(c) or release any security so given—

- (a) if no proceedings for an offence under regulation 30(1)(d) or (e) (offences) are instituted within the period of seven days beginning with the day on which the sum is paid; or
- (b) if proceedings for that offence, having been instituted within that period, are concluded without the owner, manager, demise charterer or master being convicted.

(10) Where a sum has been paid, or security has been given, by any person in pursuance of paragraph 8(c) and the owner, manager, demise charterer or master is convicted of an offence under regulation 30(1)(d) or (e) (offences), the sum so paid or the amount made available under the security must be applied as follows—

- (a) first in payment of any costs or expenses ordered by the court to be paid by the owner, manager, demise charterer or master; and
- (b) next in payment of any fine imposed by the court,

(1) Section 284 was amended by the Merchant Shipping and Maritime Security Act 1997 (c. 28), Schedule 1, paragraph 5, and S.I. 2015/664, Schedule 4, Part 1, paragraph 27(1) and (15).

and any balance must be repaid to the first-mentioned person.

(11) Section 145 of the 1995 Act⁽²⁾ (interpretation of section 144) applies for the purposes of paragraphs (8) to (10), as if—

- (a) references to the master or owner of the ship were references to the owner, manager, demise charterer or master; and
- (b) references to an offence under section 131 (discharge of oil from ships into certain United Kingdom waters) were references to an offence under regulation 30(1)(d) or (e) (offences).

Commencement Information

II Reg. 26 in force at 22.7.2020, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

(2) Section 145 was amended by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), Schedule 36, Part 2, paragraph 13, and by the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 (c. 2), Schedule 11, paragraph 16.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships) Regulations 2020, Section 26.