

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
64th session  
Agenda item 3

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## RECYCLING OF SHIPS

### Proposals on threshold values and exemptions applicable under the Hong Kong Convention – Background information

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#### SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides background information on the issue of threshold values and exemptions applicable under the Hong Kong Convention
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	7.1
<i>High-level action:</i>	7.1.2
<i>Planned output:</i>	7.1.2.1
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 11
<i>Related documents:</i>	MEPC 62/3/10 and MEPC 64/3

#### Introduction

1 This document is submitted as a follow-up to MEPC 62/3/10 and should be considered together with MEPC 64/3, on the subject of threshold values and exemptions to apply in the development of Inventories of Hazardous Materials under the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009.

2 Regulation 5 of the Convention details the requirements for the development of Inventories of Hazardous Materials (IHM) and calls for the application of threshold values and exemptions contained in supporting Guidelines (Guidelines for the development of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials). The process for the review of this list of threshold values and exemptions is provided in regulation 6 of the Convention.

3 There is a widely recognized need for further clarity regarding the development of threshold values and exemptions under the Hong Kong Convention. This document is therefore submitted with a view to assisting that process.

### **Role of the shipowner**

4 Under regulation 5, ships must have on board an Inventory of Hazardous Materials verified either by the Administration or a recognized organization acting on its behalf. The *2011 Guidelines for the development of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials* contain further recommendations, including the identification, research and collation of pertinent information that will be useful in the development of inventories.

### **Role of the ship recycler**

5 Ship recyclers should, under regulation 20, have in place procedures to ensure safe and environmentally sound removal of hazardous materials contained in a ship certified as ready for recycling. They should develop a Ship Recycling Plan, specific to the ship, on the basis of the information contained in the IHM.

### **Role of the flag State**

6 Flag States shall, under regulation 5 verify inventories of hazardous materials and undertake regular surveys in accordance with regulation 10. At the end of the ship's operational life the final survey will be conducted by the flag State to ensure that the particulars of the inventory (part I) match the ship and the Ship Recycling Plan properly reflects the information contained within it.

### **Role of the recycling State**

7 The recycling State shall, according to the Convention, authorize yards in accordance with their capacity and capabilities. Ship Recycling Plans, developed on the basis of Inventories of Hazardous Materials, will either be explicitly or tacitly approved.

### **Scope of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials**

8 Inventories contain three parts. Part I should identify the location and approximate quantities of Hazardous Materials listed in appendices 1 and 2 to the Convention, as required under regulation 5.1.1. In the case of newbuildings, the materials in both lists should be detailed. Existing ships must comply as far as practicable with the requirements, identifying at least the Hazardous Materials listed in appendix 1 to the Convention and those in appendix 2 as far as practicable. Parts II and III of the Inventory detail operationally generated wastes and stores and are to be developed prior to the final survey.

### **Purpose of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials**

9 The purpose of the IHM is to provide ship-specific information on the actual hazardous materials present on board, in order to protect health and safety and to prevent environmental pollution at ship recycling facilities. This information will be used by the ship recycling facilities in order to decide how to manage the types and amounts of materials identified in the IHM (regulation 9). Regulation 5.1.1 of the Convention does not require that each and every occurrence of a material on board must be recorded in detail, allowing for approximate quantities, and therefore is intended to assist a wider control process to ensure safe and environmentally sound recycling.

### **Summary**

10 Under the regime of the Convention, Inventories of Hazardous Materials will provide information on hazardous substances likely to be found in the ships structure or in its

equipment, which authorized recycling facilities should use to plan the recycling process in accordance with the Convention, through the development of Ship Recycling Plans approved by the authorities, which are then checked against the ship and the inventory in the final survey. As such, the IHM is one of several keystones of the Convention within a regime that provides continual oversight to ensure safe and environmentally sound recycling.

**Action requested of the Committee**

11 The Committee is invited to note the above background information and take action, as appropriate.

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