

Circular From LONDON

Date: 17 February 2017

China - Sludge and garbage disposal

Members calling at Chinese ports will be aware of PRC Regulations, effective since February 2011 and amended in 2013, that require international ocean-going vessels to dispose of pollutants on board and to present a valid Pollutant Disposal Certificate (PDC) to the China Maritime Safety Administration prior to departing China. The Correspondent, Huatai Insurance Agency and Consultant Service Limited, China, reports that as of 13 December 2016 the Chinese Ministry of Transport has issued a formal notice that disposal is no longer mandatory, so that the requirement to present a PDC has been abolished.

The Correspondent has issued a Circular, and the full text follows.

Subject: Ministry of Transportation of China Abolished the Sludge and Garbage Disposal Requirement on Ocean Vessels before Departure from Chinese Ports as of 13 Dec 2016

Ministry of Transportation ("MOT") of China issued a formal notice on their revision decision ([No.83 MOT Order 2016](#)) of *Provisions of Peoples' Republic of China on Administration of Prevention of Marine Environmental Pollution Caused by Ships and Their Related Operating Activities*, which came into effect on 13 Dec 2016. One of the revisions made to the above regulation is that sludge and garbage disposal would no longer be mandatory to ocean vessels before they leave Chinese ports, including all the ports within Bohai area.

For ship owners' easy reference and understanding, we summarize the timeline of regulation change in this respect as follows:

- **01 Feb 2011**

Provisions of Peoples' Republic of China on Administration of Prevention of Marine Environmental Pollution Caused by Ships and Their Related Operating Activities (No.7, MOT Order 2010), which came into effect on 01 Feb 2011, provided that international navigating vessels shall dispose of the pollutants on board before departing from a Chinese port. Vessels are required to present a valid pollutant disposal certificate to MSA when going through port departure formalities.

- **01 Oct 2013**

In 2013, China MSA issued a notice [2013 No.593] on the abolishment and suspension of some related fee items and regulations, in which it was decided that vessels are allowed to choose their port of convenience to dispose of the pollutants, in order to avoid vessels having to dispose of the pollutants and pay relevant costs repeatedly when calling more than one Chinese port in one voyage. However, such arrangement didn't apply to ports within Bohai Bay, where vessels were still required to dispose of the

sludge and garbage on board before departure.

- **13 Dec 2016**

As mentioned in the beginning of the circular, MOT issued a formal notice in end of 2016 wherein the sludge and garbage disposal requirement on ocean vessels were completely abolished.

Source of Information: London P&I Club

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