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Implementation of Amendment to MARPOL 73/78 Annex V (MEPC.201 (62))

The amendment of MARPOL 73/78 Annex V 'Regulations for the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships' has entered into force on January 1st, 2013, by the IMO resolution MEPC.201(62). The amendment raised new requirements to the shipboard garbage management. In recent PSC inspections, China MSA detained several ships due to the failures in meeting the garbage management requirement of the amended MARPOL Annex V. The primary cause of such detention is the negligence of the companies and ships in the implementation of the new amendment of MARPOL.

On January, 23rd, 2013, during a PSC inspection on one container vessel, PSCOs of China MSA found that the <Garbage Management Plan> and <Garbage Record Book> were not new editions, while the key crew members on board were not familiar with the new requirements to the categorizing or the disposal of garbage of Resolution MEPC.201 (62). Prior to the inspection, the ship had received from the management company the relevant documentations of MARPOL Annex V amendments via e-mails. However, the Captain of the ship didn't pay attention to the issue. The requirements of implementation of new amended MARPOL ANN V on garbage management was not integrated into the Safety Management System onboard, and new crew members didn't receive relevant training on this aspect.

On February 18th, 2013, during the inspection on one LPG vessel, PSCOs also discovered deficiencies such as <Garbage Management Plan> and <Garbage Record Book> were not complying with revised MARPOL Annex V and the key crew members were not familiar with new requirements. After over-viewing the <Garbage Record Book>, it was noticed that after January 1st, 2013, the ship had disposed paper, glass and metal into sea, according to former regulations. More serious was after investigation, it was found that the vessel had never received any document sent by the company regarding the implementation of the new amendment. Considering the key crew members of the above mentioned ships were not familiar with the in the revised MARPOL 73/78 Annex V of garbage management, the Safety Management System on board was not effectively implemented to ensure the enforcement of the mandatory regulations of MARPOL convention, and the fact of garbage disposal after January 1st, 2013, China MSA detained the ships mentioned, and additional audit by relevant ROs were required.

Therefore, it is reminded that all companies and ships should pay high attention and be warned by such cases, and should be noticed as the followings:

- 1. Deliver the safety information of new requirements of MARPOL Annex V amendment to the ships timely, integrate it into SMS, and carry out relevant trainings accordingly with SMS requirements;
- 2. Ships should hold <Garbage Management Plan> complying with new requirements; in areas such as kitchen, mess room, living room, navigation bridge, engine control room new garbage placards should be posted.
- 3. The form of <Garbage Record Book> should comply with MARPOL Annex V amendment. Ships should categorize, dispose and record garbage in accordance with new requirements. Special attention should be paid to new categories in the amendment and the stricter disposal requirements.

For more information, please see our website at www.msa.gov.cn.