



APPROVAL OF SHIP-TO-SHIP TRANSFER (STS) OPERATIONS PLAN (NMA_C56.2025. Rev.0)

(a) DEFINITION:

The following abbreviations stand for:

1. "FPSO" – Floating production, storage and offloading facilities
2. "FSU" – Floating storage units
3. "GT" – Gross Tonnage in accordance to ITC 69
4. "ICS" – International Chamber of Shipping
5. "IMO" – International Maritime Organization
6. "IOPP" – International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate
7. "ISM Code" – International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention
8. "MARPOL" – International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978
9. "MEPC" – IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee
10. "OCIMP" – Oil Companies International Marine Forum
11. "RO" – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution A.789(19)
12. "SMS" – Safety Management System as defined by the ISM Code
13. "SOLAS" – International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended
14. "STS" – Ship to Ship

The term "**Administration**" refers to the Nauru Maritime Administration.

(b) PURPOSE:

This Marine Circular serves to inform all owners / managers / operators on the amendments to MARPOL Annex I as adopted by MEPC.186 (59) adding a new Chapter 8 on the prevention of pollution during the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea.

(c) REFERENCES:

[Resolution MEPC.186\(59\)](#)

(d) APPLICATION:

1. The new regulation requires all oil tankers 150 GT and above engaged in the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea (STS operations) to:
 - 1.1. Carry on board an STS operations Plan, approved by the Administration, describing how STS operations are to be conducted, no later than the date of the first annual, intermediate or renewal survey of the ship to be carried out on or after 01 January 2011.

Note: Vessels with an approved STS Operations Plan shall have their IOPP Supplement amended accordingly.

- 1.2. Carry out STS operations in accordance with the vessel's approved STS operations Plan on or after 01 April 2012.

2. However, the new regulations of MARPOL Annex I Chapter 8 do not apply for the following:
 - 2.1. Bunker operations;
 - 2.2. Oil transfer operations associated with fixed or floating platforms, including drilling rigs, FPSOs used for the offshore production and storage of oil, and FSUs used for the offshore storage of produced oil;
 - 2.3. STS operations necessary for the purpose of securing the safety of a ship or saving life at sea, or for combating specific pollution incidents in order to minimize the damage from pollution; and
 - 2.4. STS operations where either of the ships involved is a warship, naval auxiliary or other ship owned or operated by a State and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service. However, each State shall ensure, by the adoption of appropriate measures not impairing operations or operational capabilities of such ships that the STS operations are conducted in a manner consistent, so far as is reasonable and practicable, with these regulations

(e) REQUIREMENTS:

1. Regulation 41 – STS Operations Plan
 - 1.1. Applicable oil tankers involved in STS operations shall carry on board a Plan prescribing how STS operations are conducted and shall operate in compliance with its approved STS Operations Plan.
 - 1.2. The STS Operations Plan shall be written in both the working language of the ship and in English.
 - 1.3. The STS Operations Plan should be developed based on the guidelines and requirements found in IMO's "Manual on Oil Pollution, Section 1, Prevention" as amended, and the ICS and OCIMF "Ship to Ship Transfer Guide, Petroleum, fourth edition, 2005, as amended.
 - 1.4. All STS Operations Plan shall be submitted to a [RO](#) for verification and subsequent approval.
 - 1.5. For vessels which comply to ISM Code, the STS Operations Plan may be:
 - 1.5.1. incorporated into an existing SMS if the vessel is required to comply with the ISM Code, in which case, the STS Operations Plan cannot be approved under MARPOL, but must be approved and audited annually by the RO as part of the SMS; or
 - 1.5.2. kept as two (2) independent documents which provide greater flexibility in amending the STS Operations Plan if required.
 - 1.6. The person in overall advisory control of STS Operations Plan shall be qualified to perform all relevant duties, taking into account the qualifications contained in the best practice guidelines for STS operations identified by the IMO (please refer to section 1.3 above).
 - 1.7. Records of STS operations as required by the STS Operations Plan, including requirements for recording of bunker and oil cargo transfer operations in the Oil Record Book as required by Revised MARPOL Annex I Chapter 3 and 4 (resolution MEPC.117(52)), shall be retained on board for three (3) years and be readily available for inspection by a Party to the present Convention.
2. Regulation 42 – Notification

Refer to **NMA C55 REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIP-TO-SHIP OPERATIONS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL OPERATIONS BY THE "DARK FLEET" OR "SHADOW FLEET"** for details and procedures on notification.