



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 7-041-5

May/2020

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: Electronic Record Books and Logbook Systems

- References:**
- (a) SOLAS, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea*, Consolidated Edition 2014, as amended
 - (b) MARPOL, *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*, Consolidated Edition 2017, as amended
 - (c) NOx Technical Code, *Code on Control of Emission of Nitrogen Oxides from Marine Diesel Engines*
 - (d) IMO Assembly Resolution [A.916\(22\)](#), *Guidelines for the Recording of Events related to Navigation*, adopted 22 Jan 2002
 - (e) IMO Resolution [MEPC.321\(74\)](#), *2019 Guidelines for Port State Control Under MARPOL Annex VI Chapter 3*, adopted 17 May 2019
 - (f) IMO Resolution [MEPC.317\(74\)](#), *Amendments to the NOx Technical Code 2008 (Electronic Record Books and Certification requirements for SCR systems)*, adopted 17 May 2019
 - (g) IMO Resolution [MEPC.316\(74\)](#), *Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI Electronic Books and EEDI regulations for ice-strengthened ships*, adopted 17 May 2019
 - (h) IMO Resolution [MEPC.314\(74\)](#), *Amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, and V (Electronic Record Books)*, adopted 17 May 2019
 - (i) IMO Resolution [MEPC.312\(74\)](#), *Guidelines for the use of Electronic Record Books under MARPOL*, adopted 17 May 2019
 - (j) [MI-108](#), *Marshall Islands Maritime Regulations*

PURPOSE:

This notice establishes the requirements for using Electronic Record Books (ERBs) and other logbook systems to electronically record required operations.

It implements the latest requirements for the approval and use of ERBs under the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships* (MARPOL) and *Technical Code on Control or Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides from Marine Diesel Engines* (NOx Technical Code 2008). This Notice supersedes version 11/06.

APPLICABILITY:

These requirements apply to all RMI-flagged vessels which use MARPOL ERBs or other logbook systems to electronically record required operations.

MARPOL ERBs may be used beginning 1 October 2020. See §2.0 below.

BACKGROUND:

IMO adopted amendments to MARPOL and the NOx Technical Code allowing ERBs to be used instead of hard copy record books.¹ They will enter into force 1 October 2020. Associated guidelines for the use of MARPOL ERBs were also adopted.²

REQUIREMENTS:

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 Electronic record and logbooks are permitted to be used under MI-108, §7.41.2(g). They must be approved by the Administrator only where required by international convention. See §2.0, below.
- 1.2 ERBs and electronic logbooks must take into consideration all relevant international standards.
- 1.3 Seafarers' documentation and records are permitted to be kept electronically provided that companies continue to maintain them according to the recordkeeping requirements in STCW Regulation I/14.1.4.³

2.0 MARPOL ERBs

2.1 Usage

ERBs may be used on board to meet the following record book and recording requirements under the MARPOL Annexes and the NOx Technical Code:

- 2.1.1 Oil Record Book, parts I and II (MARPOL Annex I, Regulations 17.1 and 36.1);
- 2.1.2 Cargo Record Book (MARPOL Annex II, Regulation 15.1);
- 2.1.3 Garbage Record Book, parts I and II (MARPOL Annex V, Regulation 10.3);
- 2.1.4 Ozone-depleting Substances (ODS) Record Book (MARPOL Annex VI, Regulation 12.6);

¹ IMO Resolutions MEPC.314(74), MEPC.316(74), and MEPC.317(74)

² IMO Resolution MEPC.312(74)

³ International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, (STCW) Regulation I/14.1.4

Existing electronic recording systems for rechargeable systems containing ODS can only be considered an ERB if the system is approved by the Administrator on or before the first International Air Pollution Prevention (IAPP) renewal survey carried out on or after 1 October 2020, but not later than 1 October 2025.

- 2.1.5 Recording of the tier and on or off status of marine diesel engines (MARPOL Annex VI, Regulation 13.5.3);
- 2.1.6 Record of Fuel Oil Changeover (MARPOL Annex VI, Regulation 14.6); and
- 2.1.7 Record Book of Engine Parameters (NO_x Technical Code, paragraph 6.2.2.7).

2.2 Administrator-Approved Software

Approval will be based on the software conforming with IMO Resolution [MEPC.312\(74\)](#).

- 2.2.1 Click [here](#) for a list of Administrator-approved MARPOL ERB software.
- 2.2.2 To seek approval for MARPOL ERB software email: technical@register-iri.com.

2.3 Onboard Declaration

- 2.3.1 Every vessel with an approved MARPOL ERB installed must carry a 'Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book(s)'. This Declaration is not necessary while a MARPOL ERB is undergoing testing, only once it has been approved.
- 2.3.2 To apply for the Declaration, complete form [MI-334A](#), *Application for Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book(s)*, and email it to technical@register-iri.com.
- 2.3.3 The Administrator will review the form. A 'Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book(s)' will be issued as appropriate.

3.0 Documentation for Port State Control

- 3.1 The use of MARPOL ERBs or other logbook systems to electronically record required operations does not lessen shipowners' existing duties to accurately record, maintain, and produce records during an inspection per international requirements.
- 3.2 The MARPOL ERB must have the capability to produce a hard copy of verified records for the Master to certify as a true copy on request from relevant authorities.
- 3.3 The following documentation must be carried on board and be presented upon request during a port State control boarding or other authorized vessel inspection:
 - 3.3.1 The Administrator's Declaration for use of the MARPOL ERBs.

- 3.3.2 For systems other than MARPOL ERBs, a declaration from the supplier's installation contractor, that the system is installed according to current regulations, is performance tested, and found in full functioning order.
- 3.3.3 If a declaration or written authorization cannot be provided, a hard copy record must be presented for examination.⁴
- 3.3.4 Where vessels must maintain a hard copy logbook in bound volumes, the Administration will accept a hard copy printout in accordance with [MI-108](#), §7.41.2(g).
- 3.3.5 Evidence that the routines for safekeeping MARPOL ERB or other electronic logbook systems under MI-108, §7.41.2(g) are implemented in the ship's International Safety Management system.

4.0 Non-Acceptance of ERBs by Port States

- 4.1 Though MARPOL allows ERBs to be used in lieu of hard copy record books, not all port States will accept them.⁵ Therefore, the administrator recommends that any ships utilizing ERBs also be able to produce the appropriate documentation in hard copy.

⁴ See §2.1.2 of MEPC.321(74), *2019 Guidelines for Port State Control Under MARPOL Annex VI*, Chapter 3.

⁵ RMI flagged-ships must comply with coastal State regulations and should check with their local agent on port State acceptance of MARPOL ERBs and other electronic logbooks.