

# IMO'S SUB COMMITTEE ON POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (PPR)

13<sup>th</sup> Session, 09<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Session Outcome



**IRCLASS**  
Indian Register of Shipping

## **IMO SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE- 13<sup>th</sup> session**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Session of IMO's Subcommittee on Pollution Prevention and Response was held from 09<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

### **Concise Summary of Important Decisions made**

PPR 13 agreed to submit the following to MEPC 84:

- ✓ draft amendments to MARPOL Annex I (new regulation 12B on oily bilge water holding tanks and oily bilge water service tanks, with amended appendices II and III as well as related draft 2026 Guidelines (for systems for handling oily wastes in machinery spaces) and draft revised Guidance for the recording of operations in the Oil Record Book Part I – machinery space operations
- ✓ the evaluation of revised carriage requirements for 12 existing entries in chapter 17 of the IBC Code and their consequential addition of new entries in List 1 of MEPC.2/Circ.32, with validity for all countries and with no expiry date
- ✓ draft amendments to the NTC 2008 (inclusion of emissions from the combustion of alternative fuels)
- ✓ draft amendments to regulation 15 and appendix I of MARPOL Annex VI (installation of pressure vacuum devices on tankers carrying crude oil)
- ✓ new unified interpretations of regulations 13.2.3 (time of replacement of an engine) and 16.9 of MARPOL Annex VI (continuous-feed type shipboard incinerator), as well as the draft revised unified interpretation of regulation 13.2.2 (application dates for major conversion using the criteria based on "three dates")
- ✓ draft 2026 Strategy and the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships
- ✓ recommendation to develop a new code to be made mandatory through MARPOL Annex III and/or SOLAS, to reduce the environmental risks of plastic pellets transported by sea in freight containers.

## Summary of relevant topics which were discussed at PPR 13

### **MARPOL Annex I Developments**

PPR 13 agreed to draft amendments to MARPOL Annex I regarding forced evaporation of oily bilge water, including consequential updates to the IOPP Certificate and Oil Record Book subject to approval by MEPC 84. These draft amendments specifically introduce a new regulation 12B which applies to ships ≥400GT that are fitted with an Integrated Bilge Water Treatment Systems (IBTS) installed on or after the entry into force date.

The draft 2026 Guidelines were agreed for handling oily wastes in machinery spaces, including guidance for IBTS subject to approval by MEPC 84.

The draft revised guidance was agreed for recording operations in Oil Record Book Part I – machinery space operations (all ships), which will replace MEPC.1/Circ.736/Rev.2 subject to approval by MEPC 84.

#### ***Revision of the Revised guidelines and specifications for pollution prevention equipment for machinery space bilges of ships (resolution MEPC.107(49))***

The current guidelines, MEPC.107(49) – Revised Guidelines and Specifications for Pollution Prevention Equipment for Machinery Space Bilges of Ships, adopted in 2003, do not use a test fluid representative of modern fuels and contain gaps that allow undetected or improperly monitored oily water to be discharged overboard.

PPR 13 considered proposed amendments meant to introduce more representative test fluids for evaluating the performance of 15 ppm bilge separators and 15 ppm bilge alarms. The objective is to ensure that testing better reflects the broader range of fuel oils, oily mixtures and chemicals that may now be present in bilge water.

These proposals were supported and it was decided that work should be progressed by an intersessional correspondence group. The CG will prepare a draft revision of MEPC.107(49) and submit a report to PPR 14.

### **MARPOL Annex II & IBC Code**

PPR 13 considered the outcome of the meeting of the Evaluation of Safety and Pollution Hazards (ESPH 31) technical group. The sub-committee concurred with the 31<sup>st</sup> circular on Provisional Categorization of Liquid Substances in accordance with MARPOL Annex II and the IBC Code which was published in December 2025.

#### ***Proposal to amend the format of the Cargo Record Book for ships carrying noxious liquid substances in bulk in appendix II of MARPOL Annex II***

PPR 13 considered a proposal to amend the Cargo Record Book format under MARPOL Annex II to require recording the ship's latitude and longitude when discharging tank washings and ballast water, to support verification of compliance with discharge location requirements. Although the proposal received broad support in principle, it was deemed outside the current output's scope, and a separate new output will be required for further consideration by MEPC.

#### ***Proposal for a unified interpretation of paragraph 7.1.5.4 of the IBC Code (Unified interpretation of the IBC Code – Temperature Monitoring and Inhibitors)***

PPR 13 considered a unified interpretation of the phrase “monitoring of cargo temperature” in paragraph 7.1.5.4 of the IBC Code, to clarify that, with regard to measuring the cargo temperature, in cases where overheating or overcooling could result in a dangerous condition, a cargo temperature alarm system should be provided with alarm settings that take into account both the temperature at which hazardous reactions of the cargo may occur and the temperature limits required to ensure that any added inhibitor remains effective throughout the voyage.

It was agreed that amendments to the text of the IBC Code would be the most appropriate way to address the temperature monitoring concerns.

The sub-committee agreed that the scope of the preparation of draft amendments to the IBC Code to be undertaken at ESPH 32 should include amendments to address temperature monitoring for products requiring added inhibitors.

### **Revision Of MARPOL Annex IV and associated guidelines**

Further progress has been made on the revision of MARPOL Annex IV and associated guidance with respect to improving sewage effluent discharge from ships. The sub-committee agreed in principle to introduce a mandatory Sewage Record Book (Regulation 11A) and Appendix III (form of the sewage record book)) and a mandatory Sewage Management Plan (Regulation 11B), together with associated guidance on discharge recording and sewage system management.

Guidance for recording sewage operations and for developing Sewage Management Plans was also agreed in principle, aligned with the proposed regulatory changes. Amendments to the electronic record book guidelines (MEPC.312(74)) will follow adoption of the revised Annex IV.

A correspondence Group was established to work further on the following

- Draft amendments to MARPOL Annex IV.
- Draft amendment of MEPC.227(64) 2012 Guidelines on implementation of effluent standards and performance tests for sewage treatment plants.
- Draft Guidelines on the implementation of MARPOL Annex IV for sewage treatment plants.

### **Review and development of NOx emission requirements in MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code 2008**

#### ***Review and amendment of the NTC 2008 to provide a means for certification of engines that operate on non-carbon-containing fuel or mixtures of carbon-containing and non-carbon-containing fuels***

PPR 13 agreed to proposed amendments to the NOx Technical Code 2008 (NTC 2008) subject to approval at MEPC 84. Based on recent revisions to ISO 8178, the agreed amendments introduce hydrogen-balance and oxygen-balance calculation methods to enable emission testing across a wider range of fuel types, including pure non-carbon fuels and mixtures of carbon-containing and non-carbon-containing fuels

#### ***Engine test cycles and weighting factors***

There was a general support for the concept of addressing NOx emissions at low loads. The possible approaches were discussed to amend the NTC 2008, but consensus was not reached on how to progress and therefore it was agreed that further intersessional work was needed. Member States are invited to work together to submit more proposals at PPR 14.

#### ***Onboard verification methods for NOx compliance and facilitation of onboard inspections, including Port State Control (PSC)***

The broad support for finding practical methods to demonstrate NOx compliance and facilitate onboard inspections, including Port State Control (PSC) was noted. While some delegations expressed concerns about the proposed Electronic Diagnostic Module (EDM) due to technological immaturity, sensor calibration issues, and its prescriptive nature, others favoured updating the current framework to reflect electronically controlled engines, incorporating checksums or CRC codes, and providing guidance for crew and PSC officers. No consensus was reached, and member states were invited to collaborate intersessionally and submit proposals to PPR 14.

### **Development of a legally binding framework for the control and management of ships' biofouling**

Discussions on the development of a legally binding framework for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species were commenced at PPR 13. It was agreed that a new convention would be the most suitable way forward.

## **Evaluation and harmonisation of rules and guidance on the discharge of discharge water from EGCS into the aquatic environment, including conditions and areas**

PPR 13 did not reach consensus on developing new regulatory measures for the discharge of wash water from Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS), particularly regarding proposals to introduce a PSSA-based mechanism under MARPOL Annex VI. Concerns were raised that such an approach could effectively prohibit EGCS discharges beyond established MARPOL amendment procedures.

However, the Sub-Committee acknowledged that coastal States may consider discharge limitations in environmentally sensitive sea areas. PPR 13 therefore agreed that the PSSA concept has merit, but instead of introducing a MARPOL Annex VI PSSA requirement now, it will recommend to MEPC that any newly designated PSSA should include an assessment of whether EGCS discharge limitations are appropriate as an associated protective measure. Additionally, interested parties were invited to hold intersessional consultations and submit concrete proposals on managing EGCS discharges to PPR 14

### **Follow-up work emanating from the Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships**

PPR 13 agreed on the 2026 Strategy and Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships, to be adopted by MEPC 84 and recommended that MEPC consider developing a new mandatory code for the carriage of plastic pellets, potentially through MARPOL Annex III and/or SOLAS.

The sub-committee agreed a draft MEPC circular promoting the implementation of fishing gear marking systems and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Marking Fishing Gear, subject to approval by MEPC 84.

### **Any Other Business:**

PPP 13 approved draft amendments to MARPOL Annex VI Regulation 15 and the supplement to the IAPP certificate (Appendix I of MARPOL Annex VI), introducing a requirement for new tankers carrying crude oil to be fitted with p/v valves with a minimum opening pressure of 0.20 bar.

PPR 13 agreed to the following new unified interpretations (subject to approval by MEPC 84 and eventual inclusion into a future revision of MEPC.1/Circ.795):

- Clarification of the application of regulation 16 (shipboard incineration).
- Clarification of the application of the “three-date” criteria for PSSA application dates, in relation to NOx Technical Code compliance after major conversion.

For any queries, you can reach out to:

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