
Vessels Engaged in Oil Recovery

Notice to Manufacturers, Shipbuilders, Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers, Designers and Marine Consultants, Masters and Officers of Merchant Ships and Pollution Equipment Manufacturers.

This M notice supersedes M1234

1 INTRODUCTION

This M Notice is to advise that the Marine Safety Agency (MSA) in consultation with shipowners and industry has carried out a review of Merchant Shipping Notice M1234 Oil Recovery Vessels.

Following this review a code of practice entitled:- "Code of Practice For Vessels Engaged in Oil Recovery Operations" has been produced.

2 SCOPE OF CODE

The code provides guidelines for the design, construction, ship's equipment and operation of offshore support vessels, which may be required to have the capability of handling, storing and transporting oil recovered from a spill in emergency situations.

Whilst constructing or adapting such vessels for the carriage of oil in bulk makes them tankers within the meaning of the various Merchant Shipping Regulations, it is recognised that there is a requirement for offshore vessels to recover oil within UK waters and that these vessels may not be able to meet all the tanker requirements.

The purpose of these guidelines is to draw attention to the minimum requirements which will have to be met, in order to satisfy the Marine Safety Agency (MSA) that such vessels are suitable to undertake oil recovery operations.

3 APPLICATION

These guidelines apply to vessels operating in UK waters, regardless of size which are constructed or adapted to handle, store and transport oil recovered from a spill of oil in emergency situations e.g. for the recovery of oil floating on the water or generally combating oil pollution.

For special duties e.g. lightening damaged oil tankers with cargo spillage and for ships of specialised types, other measures beyond the scope of this code maybe necessary.

4 CERTIFICATION AND GENERAL EXEMPTION

When an assessment of the arrangements including an inspection of the vessel has been completed to the satisfaction of the MSA and provided a satisfactory standard of safety has been achieved the MSA will issue an Oil Recovery Certificate. This will provide a General Exemption from the regulations appertaining to tankers to enable the vessel to operate as a dedicated oil recovery vessel within UK waters. The Certificate will remain valid for a period not exceeding two years unless previously cancelled.

5 WHERE TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE CODE AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The code is published by HMSO and copies can be obtained from HMSO bookshops and agents. Further information and advice with regard to the code may be obtained from Marine Safety Agency.

HMSO Publications Centre (mail, fax and
telephone orders only)
PO Box 276, London, SW8 5DT.
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Publications may also be ordered through
HMSO's accredited agents (see Yellow Pages) or
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