§ 157.28 Discharges from tank barges exempted from certain design requirements.

The person in charge of a tank barge exempted under §157.08(g) from the requirements in §§157.11, 157.13, 157.15, and 157.23 shall ensure that while the barge is proceeding en route:

(a) Cargo tanks are not ballasted or washed; and
(b) Oil or oily mixtures are not discharged.


§ 157.29 Discharges: Seagoing tank vessels of 150 gross tons or more.

Unless a seagoing tank vessel of 150 gross tons or more discharges an oily mixture in compliance with the requirements in §157.37, §157.39, or §157.43, the vessel must:

(a) Retain the mixture; or
(b) Transfer the mixture to a reception facility.

§ 157.31 Discharges: Chemical additives.

No person may use a chemical additive to circumvent the discharge requirements in §§157.27, 157.29, 157.37, 157.39, and 157.43.

§ 157.33 Water ballast in fuel oil tanks.

A new vessel may not carry ballast water in a fuel oil tank.


§ 157.35 Ballast added to cargo tanks.

The master of a tank vessel with segregated ballast tanks or dedicated clean ballast tanks under §157.09, §157.10, §157.10a(a)(1), §157.10a(b), §157.10a(c), §157.10b(a), §157.10b(b)(1), or §157.10c(c) shall ensure that ballast water is carried in a cargo tank only if—

(a) The vessel encounters abnormally severe weather conditions;
(b) More ballast water than can be carried in segregated ballast tanks or dedicated clean ballast tanks is necessary for the safety of the vessel;
(c) The ballast water is processed and discharged in compliance with §157.37; and
(d) On a new vessel under §157.10 that carries crude oil, the ballast water is only carried in a cargo tank that is crude oil washed in accordance with Subpart D of this part during or after the most recent discharge of crude oil from that tank.


§ 157.37 Discharge of oily mixtures from oil cargoes.

(a) A tank vessel may not discharge an oily mixture into the sea from a cargo tank, slop tank, or cargo pump room bilge unless the vessel:

(1) Is more than 50 nautical miles from the nearest land;
(2) Is proceeding en route;
(3) Is discharging at an instantaneous rate of oil content not exceeding 30 liters per nautical mile;
(4) Is an existing vessel and the total quantity of oil discharged into the sea does not exceed 1/15,000 of the total quantity of the cargo that the discharge formed a part, or is a new vessel and the total quantity of oil discharged into the sea does not exceed 1/30,000 of the total quantity of the cargo that the discharge formed a part;
(5) Discharges:
   (i) Through the above waterline discharge point described in §157.11(b)(2);
   (ii) In accordance with paragraph 5 of appendix E to this part, if the vessel is an existing vessel with a Part Flow System meeting that appendix; or
   (iii) Below the waterline in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section;
(6) Has in operation an oil discharge monitoring and control system required by §157.12 that is designed for use with the oily mixture being discharged, except that the system may be operated manually if:
   (i) The automatic system fails during a ballast voyage;
   (ii) The failure is recorded in the Oil Record Book;
(iii) The master ensures that the discharge is constantly monitored visually and promptly terminated when oil is detected in the discharge; and

(iv) The system is operated manually only until the ballast voyage is completed; and

(7) Is outside the “Special Areas” defined in Regulation 1.11 of Annex I to the MARPOL 73/78.

(b) A seagoing tank vessel of 150 gross tons or more that carries asphalt or other products whose physical properties inhibit effective product/water separation and monitoring must transfer all oil cargo residues and tank washings from such cargoes to a reception facility.

(c) Each oil discharge monitoring and control system must be maintained and operated in accordance with its instructions manual.

(d) All discharge data recorded by an oil discharge monitoring and control system must be retained for at least three years. The data for the most recent year must be retained on board the vessel.

(e) Ballast water containing an oily mixture may be discharged below the waterline at sea by gravity if—

1. The ballast is not from a slop tank;

2. Examination with an oil-water interface detector shows that oil-water separation has taken place; and

3. The oil layer is high enough in the tank so that it will not be discharged.

(The information collection requirement contained in paragraph (d) of this section was approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1625-0041.)


§ 157.41 Emergencies.

Sections 157.27, 157.29, 157.37, and 157.39 do not apply to a tank vessel that discharges into the sea oil or oily mixtures:

(a) For the purpose of securing the safety of the vessel or for saving life at sea; or

(b) As a result of damage to the vessel or its equipment if:

1. Reasonable precautions are taken after the occurrence of the damage or discovery of the discharge for the purpose of preventing or minimizing the discharge; and

2. The owner, master or person in charge did not intend to cause damage, did not act recklessly and with knowledge that damage of the environment would probably result.

§ 157.43 Discharges of clean and segregated ballast: Seagoing tank vessels of 150 gross tons or more.

(a) Clean ballast may not be discharged overboard unless the discharge is verified as clean ballast through use of an approved oil discharge monitoring and control system or, if discharged before the required oil discharge monitoring and control system installation date, by visual examination of the ballast contents immediately before discharge. This paragraph applies to discharges of clean ballast:

1. From dedicated clean ballast tanks; and

2. Into the navigable waters of the United States from any other tank.

(b) Segregated ballast may not be discharged overboard unless a visual examination, or a test of the ballast bilge that is not combined with an oil cargo residue if the vessel:

1. Is proceeding en route;

2. Is discharging an effluent with an oil content of less than 15 parts per million; and

3. Has in operation an oil discharge monitoring and control system in compliance with §157.12 and oil separating equipment in compliance with 33 CFR 155.380.


§ 157.39 Machinery space bilges.

(a) A tank vessel may discharge an oily mixture from a machinery space bilge that is combined with an oil cargo residue if the vessel discharges in compliance with §157.37.

(b) A tank vessel may discharge an oily mixture from a machinery space bilge that is not combined with an oil cargo residue if the vessel:

1. Is proceeding en route;

2. Is discharging an effluent with an oil content of less than 15 parts per million; and

3. Has in operation an oil discharge monitoring and control system in compliance with §157.12 and oil separating equipment in compliance with 33 CFR 155.380.

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