Coast Guard, DHS

§ 151.26 Shipboard oil pollution emergency plans.

(a) Language of the plan. The shipboard oil pollution emergency plan must be available on board in English and in the working language of the master and the officers of the ship, if other than English.

(b) Plan format. The plan must contain the following six sections. A seventh non-mandatory section may be included at the shipowner’s discretion:

(1) Introduction. This section must contain the following:

(i) Introductory text. The introductory text of the plan must contain the following language (For ships operating in Antarctica, the introductory text of the plan must contain the following language and explain that they are in accordance with the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty):

This plan is written in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 26 of Annex I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78).

The purpose of the plan is to provide guidance to the master and officers on board the ship with respect to the steps to be taken when a pollution incident has occurred or is likely to occur.

The plan contains all information and operational instructions required by the guidelines (Resolution MEPC.54(32)). The appendices contain names, telephone numbers, telex numbers, etc. of all contacts referenced in the plan, as well as other reference material.

This plan has been approved by the Coast Guard and, except as provided below, no alteration or revision may be made to any part of it without the prior approval of the Coast Guard.

Changes to the seventh section of the plan and the appendices do not require approval by the Coast Guard. The appendices must be maintained up-to-date by the owners, operators, and managers.

(ii) General information.

(A) The ship’s name, call sign, official number, International Maritime Organization (IMO) international number, and principal characteristics.

(B) [Reserved]

(2) Preamble. This section must contain an explanation of the purpose and use of the plan and indicate how the shipboard plan relates to other shore-based plans.

(3) Reporting Requirements. This section of the plan must include information relating to the following:

(i) When to report. A report shall be made whenever an incident involves—

(A) A discharge of oil or oily mixture resulting from damage to the ship or its equipment, or for the purpose of securing the safety of a ship or saving life at sea;

(B) A discharge of oil or oily mixture during the operation of the ship in excess of the quantities or instantaneous rate permitted in §151.10 of this subpart or in §157.37 of this subchapter; or

(C) A probable discharge. Factors to be considered in determining whether a discharge is probable include, but are not limited to: ship location and proximity to land or other navigational hazards, weather, tide, current, sea state, and traffic density. The master must make a report in cases of collision, grounding, fire, explosion, structural failure, flooding or cargo shifting, or an incident resulting in failure or breakdown of steering gear, propulsion,
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electrical generating system, or essential shipborne navigational aids.

(ii) Information required. This section of the plan must include a notification form, such as that depicted in Table 151.26(b)(3)(ii)(A), that contains information to be provided in the initial and follow-up notifications. The initial notification should include as much of the information on the form as possible, and supplemental information, as appropriate. However, the initial notification must not be delayed pending collection of all information. Copies of the form must be placed at the location(s) on the ship from which notification may be made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 151.26(b)(3)(ii)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHIPBOARD OIL POLLUTION EMERGENCY PLAN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAMPLE FORMAT FOR INITIAL NOTIFICATION</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| AA (SHIP NAME, CALL SIGN, FLAG) |
| BB (DATE AND TIME OF EVENT, UTC) |
| CC (POSITION, LAT, LONG) | DD (BEARING, DISTANCE FROM LANDMARK) |
| d d d d | d d d N miles |
| d d d d | d d d |
| EE (COURSE) | FF (SPEED, KNOTS) |
| d d d | km km 1/10 |
| LL (INTENDED TRACK) |
| MM (RADIO STATION(S) GUARDED) |
| NN (DATE AND TIME OF NEXT REPORT, UTC) |
| PP (TYPE AND QUANTITY OF CARGO/BUNKERS ON BOARD) |
| QQ (BRIEF DETAILS OF DEFECTS/DEFICIENCIES/DAMAGE) |
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(iii) Whom to contact. (A) This section of the plan must make reference to the appendices listing coastal state contacts, port contacts, and ship interest contacts.

(B) For actual or probable discharges of oil, or oily mixtures the reports must comply with the procedures described in MARPOL Protocol I. The reports shall be directed to either the nearest Captain of the Port (COTP) or to the National Response Center (NRC), toll free telephone number: 800–424–8802, direct telephone: 202–267–2675, or Fax: 202–267–1322.

(C) For Antarctica, in addition to compliance with paragraph (b)(3)(iii)(B) of this section, reports shall also be directed to any Antarctic station that may be affected.

(4) Steps to control a discharge. This section of the plan must contain a discussion of procedures to address the following scenarios:

(i) Operational spills: The plan must outline procedures for removal of oil spilled and contained on deck. The plan must also provide guidance to ensure proper disposal of recovered oil and cleanup materials;

(A) Pipe leakage: The plan must provide specific guidance for dealing with pipe leakage;

(B) Tank overflow: The plan must include procedures for dealing with tank overflows. It must provide alternatives such as transferring cargo or bunkers to empty or slack tanks, or readying pumps to transfer the excess ashore;

(C) Hull leakage: The plan must outline procedures for responding to spills due to suspected hull leakage, including guidance on measures to be taken to reduce the head of oil in the tank involved either by internal transfer or discharge ashore. Procedures to handle situations where it is not possible to identify the specific tank from which

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Note: The alphabetical reference letters in the above format are from "General principles for ship reporting systems and ship reporting requirements, including guidelines for reporting incidents involving dangerous goods, harmful substances and/or marine pollutants" adopted by the International Maritime Organization by resolution A.851(20). The letters do not follow the complete alphabetical sequence as certain letters are used to designate information required for other standard reporting formats, e.g., those used to transmit route information.
leakage is occurring must also be provided. Procedures for dealing with suspected hull fractures must be included. These procedures must take into account the effect of corrective actions on hull stress and stability.

(ii) Spills resulting from casualties: Each of the casualties listed below must be treated in the plan as a separate section comprised of various checklists or other means which will ensure that the master considers all appropriate factors when addressing the specific casualty. These checklists must be tailored to the specific ship. In addition to the checklists, specific personnel assignments for anticipated tasks must be identified. Reference to existing fire control plans and muster lists is sufficient to identify personnel responsibilities in the following situations:

(A) Grounding;
(B) Fire or explosion;
(C) Collision;
(D) Hull failure; and
(E) Excessive list.

(iii) In addition to the checklist and personnel duty assignments required by paragraph (b)(4)(ii) of this section, the plan must include—

(A) Priority actions to ensure the safety of personnel and the ship, assess the damage to the ship, and take appropriate further action;
(B) Information for making damage stability and longitudinal strength assessments, or contacting classification societies to acquire such information. Nothing in this section shall be construed as creating a requirement for damage stability plans or calculations beyond those required by law or regulation; and
(C) Lightening procedures to be followed in cases of extensive structural damage. The plan must contain information on procedures to be followed for ship-to-ship transfer of cargo. Reference may be made in the plan to existing company guides. A copy of such company procedures for ship-to-ship transfer operations must be kept in the plan. The plan must address the coordination of this activity with the coastal or port state, as appropriate.

(5) National and Local Coordination. (i) This section of the plan must contain information to assist the master in initiating action by the coastal State, local government, or other involved parties. This information must include guidance to assist the master with organizing a response to the incident should a response not be organized by the shore authorities. Detailed information for specific areas may be included as appendices to the plan.

(ii) For Antarctica, a vessel owner or operator must include a plan for prompt and effective response action to such emergencies as might arise in the performance of its vessel’s activities.

(iii) To comply with paragraph (b)(5)(ii) of this section, an agency of the United States government may promulgate a directive providing for prompt and effective response by the agency’s public vessels operating in Antarctica.

(6) Appendices. Appendices must include the following information:

(i) Twenty-four hour contact information and alternates to the designated contacts. These details must be routinely updated to account for personnel changes and changes in telephone, telex, and teleximages numbers. Clear guidance must also be provided regarding the preferred means of communication.

(ii) The following lists, each identified as a separate appendix:

(A) A list of agencies or officials of coastal state administrations responsible for receiving and processing incident reports;
(B) A list of agencies or officials in regularly visited ports. When this is not feasible, the master must obtain details concerning local reporting procedures upon arrival in port; and
(C) A list of all parties with a financial interest in the ship such as ship and cargo owners, insurers, and salvage interests.

(D) A list which specifies who will be responsible for informing the parties listed and the priority in which they must be notified.

(iii) A record of annual reviews and changes.

(7) Non-mandatory provisions. If this section is included by the shipowner, it should include the following types of information or any other information that may be appropriate:

(i) Diagrams;
(ii) Response equipment or oil spill removal organizations;
(iii) Public affairs practices;
(iv) Recordkeeping;
(v) Plan exercising; and
(vi) Individuals qualified to respond.

§ 151.26 Plan submission and approval.

(a) No manned ship subject to this part may operate unless it carries on board a shipboard oil pollution emergency plan approved by the Coast Guard. An unmanned ship subject to this regulation must carry the notification list required in §151.26(b)(3) on board in the documentation container; remaining sections of the plan must be maintained on file at the home office. For new ships, plans must be submitted at least 90 days before the ship intends to begin operations.

(b) An owner or operator of a ship to which this part applies shall prepare and submit one English language copy of the shipboard oil pollution emergency plan to Commandant (CG–5431), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 2nd St., SW., Stop 7581, Washington, DC 20593–7581.

(c) An owner or operator with multiple ships to which this part applies may submit one plan for each type of ship with a separate ship-specific appendix for each vessel covered by the plan.

(d) Combined shipboard oil pollution emergency plans and response plans meeting the requirements of subparts D and E of part 155 of this chapter must be prepared according to §155.1030(j) of this chapter.

(e) If the Coast Guard determines that the plan meets all requirements of this section, the Coast Guard will notify the owner or operator of the ship and return a copy of the approved plan along with an approval letter. The approval period for a plan expires 5 years after the plan approval date.

(f) If the Coast Guard determines that the plan does not meet all of the requirements, the Coast Guard will notify the owner or operator of the plan’s deficiencies. The owner or operator must then resubmit two copies of the revised plan, or corrected portions of the plan, within time period specified in the written notice provided by the Coast Guard.


§ 151.27 Plan review and revision.

(a) An owner or operator of a ship to which this subpart applies must review the shipboard oil pollution emergency plan annually and submit a letter to Commandant (CG–5431) certifying that the review has been completed. This review must occur within 1 month of the anniversary date of Coast Guard approval of the plan.

(b) The owner or operator shall submit any plan amendments to Commandant (CG–5431) for information or approval.

(c) The entire plan must be resubmitted to Commandant (CG–5431) for reapproval 6 months before the end of the Coast Guard approval period identified in §151.27(e) of this subpart.

(d) A record of annual review and changes to the plan must be maintained in the last appendix of section six of the plan.

(e) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, revisions must receive prior approval by the Coast Guard before they can be incorporated into the plan.

(f) If the Coast Guard determines that the plan does not meet all of the requirements, the Coast Guard will notify the owner or operator of the plan’s deficiencies. The owner or operator must then resubmit two copies of the revised plan, or corrected portions of the plan, within time period specified in the written notice provided by the Coast Guard.