
IMO Pollution Prevention and Response Eighth Session (PPR 8)

Agenda Preview



Overview of discussions

Below are some of the discussions at PPR 8 will have some impact on current practices. These can be found in detail under the relevant subject headings in the document.

- **Evaluation of safety and pollution hazards of chemicals** and preparation of consequential amendments to the IBC Code, as well as routine ongoing updates. This session will also discuss a generic entry for "Palm oil mill effluent (POME) technical oil" be included provisionally in List 1 of the MEPC.2/Circular and subsequently in chapter 17 of the IBC Code. (See [Agenda item 3](#))
- **Development of a standard for the verification of ballast water compliance monitoring devices (CMDs)**. Discussions over development of a standard for verification of ballast water compliance monitoring systems will move forward after proposals for the same are introduced to the IMO. The intention is that the revised protocol can be used to verify the performance of CMDs, which may be used during commissioning testing, data gathering during the experience-building phase, compliance testing by port State control or self-monitoring. A correspondence group (CG) is expected to be set-up for taking the discussions further by PPR 8. (See [Agenda item 11](#))
- **Revision of MARPOL Annex IV and associated guidelines to introduce provisions for record-keeping and measures to confirm the lifetime performance of sewage treatment plants** is underway, with this session of PPR reviewing the report of the correspondence group which presents among other outputs a new draft for the associated guidelines (amending 2012 Guidelines on implementation of effluent standards and performance tests for sewage treatment plants (resolution MEPC.227(64))). PPR 8 is expected to request the continuation of the CG from MEPC 76 with a view for finalisation of the output at PPR 9 and an extension of the target completion year for the output to 2023. (See [Agenda item 7](#))
- **The impact on the Arctic of Black Carbon emissions from international shipping**. With the industry's increased experience and test results indicating that the nature of very low sulphur fuel oils (VLSFO) tends towards being more paraffinic rather than aromatic, the discussion will further evolve in this session of PPR. The sub-committee is expected to seek an extension from MEPC 76 for the discussions to continue on this topic. (see [Agenda item 5](#))
- **Development of measures to reduce risks of use and carriage of heavy fuel oil as fuel by ships in Arctic waters** The sub-committee will decide which of the two versions of the draft guidelines prepared by the CG should be considered for finalisation. The sub-committee is expected to defer finalisation of the draft guidelines until PPR 9 (with a drafting group expected to be setup then for review of the draft proposals) and subsequent approval by MEPC. Consequently, the sub-committee is expected to support continuation of the CG's work on further development of the favoured version on the draft guidelines and to request MEPC 76 to extend the target completion year for this output to 2022. (See [Agenda item 6](#))
- **Follow-up work emanating from the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships**, PPR had setup a CG with the terms of reference directing the group towards the development of a draft MEPC resolution introducing amendments to MARPOL Annex V, and an appendix listing the data to be considered for developing reporting requirements. These draft requirements aim to facilitate and enhance reporting of the accidental loss or discharge of fishing gear and will be a step further from the non-prescriptive and non-binding reporting requirements currently contained within MARPOL Annex V. A non-exhaustive list of functionalities for a proposed new IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) module dedicated to the reporting of lost or discharged fishing gear was also compiled. It is expected that PPR 8 will re-establish the CG and request MEPC 76 to extend the target completion year for this output to 2023. (See [Agenda item 8](#))

Introduction

PPR 8 will take place 22-26 March 2021 as a virtual meeting. This briefing summarises the planned discussions which are relevant to the work of Lloyd's Register.

MEPC 75 approved the reduced provisional agenda for PPR 8 while encouraging member States and international organisations to refrain from submitting documents to PPR 8 that:

- were not directly related to the outcomes of the correspondence and intersessional groups that would report to the sub-committee, or;
- did not concern the development of a standard for verification of ballast water compliance monitoring systems under the agenda item "Any other business".

MEPC 75 requested the Secretariat to prepare draft consequential amendments to appendix I to MARPOL Annex II and submit them to MEPC 76, in light of the refinement of column C3 and the reassignment of column E1 of the GESAMP Hazard Profile table, with a view to approval and subsequent circulation for adoption (please see [Agenda item 3](#) below).

Note: GESAMP (Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection) is an advisory body consisting of specialised experts nominated by the Sponsoring Agencies (IMO, FAO, UNESCO-IOC, WMO, IAEA, UN, UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP). Its principal task is to provide scientific advice concerning the prevention, reduction and control of the degradation of the marine environment to the Sponsoring Agencies.

Additional Information

Lloyd's Register's [PPR 7 Summary Report](#)

Decisions of other bodies

(Agenda item 2)

Additional Information

Lloyd's Register's [MEPC 75 Summary Report](#) and [MSC 102 Summary Report](#)

PPR 8 will review the outcome of relevant decisions made and action taken by ALCOM/ES, MSC 102, MEPC 75.

PPR will reflect on the decisions taken during the ALCOM/ES, MSC 102 and MEPC 75, which impacted the provisional agenda for PPR 8. MEPC 75 approved the reduced provisional agenda for PPR 8.

Safety and pollution hazards of chemicals and preparation of consequential amendments to the IBC Code

(Agenda item 3)

Additional Information

Lloyd's Register's [PPR 7 Summary Report](#) and [SDC 7 Summary Report](#)

PPR 8 will consider the report of the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on the Evaluation of Safety and Pollution Hazards of Chemicals (ESPH) 26. The sub-committee is expected to approve the provisional agenda for ESPH 27, which is tentatively scheduled to take place from 11 to 15 October 2021.

The report of ESPH 26 summarises the following main developments which took place at this session of the working group:

- ESPH 26 was informed that GESAMP/EHS 57 (EHS Working Group: Environmental Hazards of Harmful Substances) had considered submissions for 16 new substances and had assigned GESAMP Hazard Profiles (GHPs) to 15 of the substances, which had subsequently been added as new entries to the GESAMP Composite List (PPR 1/Circ.8, Annex 4).
- With regard to existing substances, ESPH 26 noted that GESAMP/EHS 57 had provisionally reviewed the GESAMP hazard ratings for "Potassium chloride (less than 26%)" (EHS 2345) and "Sodium bromide solution (less than 50%)" (EHS 2387), based on new data received, but as the existing data files for the above-mentioned EHS entries were inaccessible, GESAMP/EHS 57 agreed to keep the provisional re-evaluation in abeyance until the next session.
- It was noted that GESAMP/EHS 57 had assigned the refined ratings for acute inhalation toxicity by splitting them into C3a (vapour/mist or mist only) and C3b (vapour only) and had also assigned flammability ratings in column E1. It was further noted that it was not possible to modify the IMO GISIS module in time to accommodate the split C3 column and the reassignment of the E1 column in the GESAMP Composite List at the conclusion of GESAMP/EHS 57. The ratings for the split C3 column and the ratings for the reassigned E1 column (not reflected in the Composite List) would be included in a future version once the GISIS bulk chemicals module database had been modified.
- GESAMP/EHS was invited by PPR 7 to recommend a way forward when assessing mixtures in Pollution Category Y that are persistent floaters (new discharge requirement in regulation 13.7.1.4 of MARPOL Annex II) with a viscosity equal to or greater than 50 mPa.s at 20°C and/or with a melting point equal to or greater than 0°C. ESPH 26 noted this would be considered at GESAMP/EHS 58, subject to it not being a remote session, as this matter would require an in-depth discussion which was not possible by correspondence.
- Evaluation of products: ESPH 26 had submitted 11 products for consideration for inclusion or revision in List 1 to PPR 8, and 3 new product submissions for evaluation as List 3 substances.
- ESPH 26 highlighted a number of amendments and corrections to be made to the drafts lists, among them an agreement to add a distinguishing qualifier to the List 1 entry "Ethyl tert-butyl ether", and noted that these changes would be taken on board by the IMO Secretariat prior to dissemination of the circular. The importance of having correct tripartite agreement contact addresses in annex 8 to MEPC.2/Circular was highlighted, and Member States were encouraged to ensure that the information contained in GISIS was correct.
- ESPH 26 also agreed to the editorial changes to the MEPC.2/Circular and invited the IMO Secretariat to take note of these changes when preparing MEPC.2/Circ.26.

PPR 8 has been requested by ESPH 26, and is expected to:

- Note the outcome of GESAMP/EHS 57;
- Concur with the evaluation of products and their respective inclusion in lists 1, 3 and 5 of MEPC.2/Circ.26, with validity for all countries and with no expiry date, as appropriate;
- Note that for the three products already listed in chapter 17 of the IBC Code, which were subsequently reassessed by the Group, a distinguishing qualifier would be appended to the corresponding product names in List 1 of the MEPC.2/Circular, starting from MEPC.2/Circ.26, to facilitate shipment of the products with the updated carriage requirements;
- Note ESPH's progress in preparing draft amendments to the Decisions with regard to the categorisation and classification of products (PPR.1/Circ.7);
- Concur with the evaluation of cleaning additives;
- Note the inclusion (in section 3 of the MEPC.2/Circular) of information regarding the reassessment of existing products and the use of a distinguishing qualifier, starting from MEPC.2/Circ.26;
- Concur with the modifications to the text of paragraph 8.4 of the draft International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel (IP Code) that were agreed by the Group, with a view to advising the Ship Design and Construction (SDC) sub-committee accordingly; and
- Approve the proposed provisional agenda for ESPH 27.

The sub-committee is expected to approve the proposal from a member State to add a generic entry for "Palm oil mill effluent (POME) technical oil" in List 1 of the MEPC.2/Circular and subsequently in chapter 17 of the IBC Code when the Code is next amended.

Review of the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species (resolution MEPC.207(62))

(Agenda item 4)

Additional Information
Lloyd's Register's [PPR 7 Summary Report](#)

This agenda item was setup after MEPC 72 agreed to include a new output to review the Biofouling Guidelines assigning the work to the PPR sub-committee. The discussions aim to provide input to further minimise the introduction or transfer of invasive aquatic species due to biofouling and emphasise the need for the urgent implementation of the voluntary guidelines (i.e. *2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species - MEPC.207(62)*).

PPR 8 will consider the *Report of the Correspondence Group on Review of the Biofouling Guidelines* and comments on it, with a view to re-establishing the CG to progress the work under this output intersessionally. Accordingly, the sub-committee is expected to request MEPC 76 to extend the target completion year for the output to 2023.

Lloyd's Register's view

Lloyd's Register will monitor the progress of this discussion. These guidelines aim to provide measures to minimise the introduction or transfer of invasive species due to biofouling, with IMO keeping focus on its timely implementation.

Reduction of the impact on the Arctic of emissions of Black Carbon from international shipping

(Agenda item 5)

<p style="text-align: center;">Additional Information Lloyd's Register's PPR 7 Summary Report</p>
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PPR 6 completed investigative work on this subject and PPR 7 continued the work with a new focus on assessing and reducing the Black Carbon impact on the Arctic with a view to develop guidance for international shipping. The projected trends and initial results of the Black Carbon measurement campaign claimed that new blends of marine fuels with 0.50% m/m sulphur content tend to contain a high percentage of aromatic compounds, and thereby could potentially increase Black Carbon emissions compared to previous generations of heavy fuel oil (HFO) and distillates. But contrary to these claims, during the discussions at PPR 7 it was noted that early analysis of Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oils (VLSFOs) supplied to ships in January 2020 when compared with High Sulphur Fuel Oils (HSFOs), indicated that VLSFO blends are more paraffinic in nature than most of the HSFOs rather than aromatic.

It was further noted, a significant volume of voluntary research showed that the formation of Black Carbon from marine diesel engines depended upon many interrelated processes including the use of fuel oil, the type and nature of the engine and fuel oil feed system, the characteristics of the engine and the local environmental/operating conditions. PPR 7 decided aromatic content is a factor but establishing the exact reasons for Black Carbon emissions from the marine industry was complex and depended on a multitude of factors. It was decided that further research and scientific evidence were required, before any regulatory measures could be proposed to control the Black Carbon emissions. The CG took up the work with intersessional meetings to discuss the developments.

PPR 8 will consider the *Report of the Correspondence Group on Reduction of the Impact on the Arctic of Black Carbon Emissions from International Shipping* in conjunction with other documents submitted under this agenda item. It is expected that the sub-committee will request MEPC 76 to extend the target completion year for the output.

Lloyd's Register's view

Lloyd's Register is of the view that the nature of very low sulphur fuel oils (VLSFO) tends to be more paraffinic, supporting the initial guidance given by the petroleum industry. Testing services data indicates that the new fuels are much more paraffinic. LR will continue following the development of the discussions under this agenda item.

Development of measures to reduce risks of use and carriage of heavy fuel oil as fuel by ships in Arctic waters

(Agenda item 6)

Additional Information
Lloyd's Register's [PPR 7 Summary Report](#)

MEPC 74 approved the scope of work for the development of measures to reduce risks of use and carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO) as fuel by ships in Arctic waters. At PPR 7, members agreed to the draft amendments to MARPOL Annex I to incorporate a prohibition on the use and carriage for use as fuel of HFO by ships in Arctic waters.

The new proposed draft regulation 43A (Special requirements for the use and carriage of oils as fuel in Arctic waters) to MARPOL Annex I, specified applicability and an entry into force date for the HFO ban.

PPR 8 will consider the *Report of the Correspondence Group on Development of Guidelines on Measures to Reduce Risks of Use and Carriage of Heavy Fuel Oil as Fuel by Ships in Arctic Waters* and decide which of the two versions of the draft guidelines prepared by the CG should be considered for finalisation and subsequent approval by the MEPC. The sub-committee will be invited to agree to defer finalisation of the draft guidelines until PPR 9, so that a drafting group at PPR 9 can review them. Accordingly, the sub-committee is expected to request MEPC 76 to extend the target completion year for this output to 2022.

Lloyd's Register's view

Lloyd's Register will observe the discussion and monitor the developments regarding the draft guidelines.

Revision of MARPOL Annex IV and associated guidelines to introduce provisions for record-keeping and measures to confirm the lifetime performance of sewage treatment plants

(Agenda item 7)

Additional Information
Lloyd's Register's [PPR 7 Summary Report](#)

MEPC 67 and 71 reviewed reports confirming that virtually all the samples from vessel sewage discharge pipes did not comply with the requirements in MARPOL Annex IV, following which IMO agreed to review the type approval standards. A CG did this but concluded MARPOL Annex IV would also need revision.

PPR 7 agreed to the draft terms of reference for a CG on Sewage Treatment Plants based on the submissions referred to this session and the instructions from MEPC 74. The CG was instructed to consider the papers submitted under PPR 7 Agenda Item 16 and also the decisions made at plenary, including:

1. Reviewing the definitions used in MARPOL Annex IV, "sewage residue" and "sewage sludge".

2. Review the scope of application of the draft amendments to MARPOL Annex IV to new and existing ships.
3. Review the need to provide adequate port reception facilities.

The draft amendments to MARPOL Annex IV introduce a set of new requirements pertaining to onboard tests aimed at verifying performance of the installed sewage treatment plants (STP) at the time of survey. Also, some relevant requirements on the applicable survey regime, equipment and documentation and on discharge of sewage sludge are introduced.

Proposed new text in the associated guidelines (including *2012 Guidelines on implementation of effluent standards and performance tests for sewage treatment plants* (resolution MEPC.227(64)), aims to address the new requirements on the tests, installation and documentation in greater detail. MARPOL Annex IV will require further review after the work on the guidelines has been finalised. The CG identified several other areas where consequential guidance would be needed.

PPR 8 is expected to consider the CG's report on *Amendments to MARPOL Annex IV and Associated Guidelines* in conjunction with all other documents submitted under this agenda item, with a view to re-establishing the CG to progress the work under this output intersessionally. Accordingly, PPR 8 is expected to request MEPC 76 to extend the target completion year for the output to 2023.

Follow-up work emanating from the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships

(Agenda item 8)

<p style="text-align: center;">Additional Information Lloyd's Register's PPR 7 Summary Report</p>
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IMO had previously agreed an action plan for addressing marine plastic litter for ships. PPR 7 was tasked by MEPC to address the proposals on the development of mandatory IMO reporting mechanisms for lost or discharged fishing gear at sea. These requirements will be a step further from the non-prescriptive and non-binding reporting requirements currently contained within MARPOL Annex V aimed at encouraging reporting by flag or coastal States. These proposals aim to amend MARPOL Annex V and the 2017 Guidelines for the implementation of MARPOL Annex V (Resolution MEPC.295(71)) to facilitate and enhance reporting of the accidental loss or discharge of fishing gear, as currently provided in regulation 10.6 of MARPOL Annex V, and clarify the types of fishing gear to be reported.

PPR 7 endorsed the development of interim guidance for surveyors, including a sample form to facilitate the endorsement of a cargo operation in an electronic Cargo Record Book, and invited III 7 to develop the interim guidance and consider whether there is a need to amend the Procedures for Port State Control.

The sub-committee also agreed to the following draft MEPC circulars with a view to subsequent approval by MEPC 76:

1. Provision of adequate facilities at ports and terminals for the reception of plastic waste from ships and encourage member States to provide adequate port reception facilities as required by regulation 8 of MARPOL Annex V.
2. Undertaking of studies by member States and international organisations to better understand microplastics from ships and to share the results of any research conducted on marine litter.

PPR 8 will review the progress of the correspondence group and further work on the development of the Annex V amendments, which aim to amend Regulation 10.6 to remove any ambiguity and add the additional proposed regulation 10.7 for making an IMO reporting for ALDFG (Accidental loss or discharge of fishing gear) reporting mandatory. Consequently, to elaborate the regulatory framework required to implement the mandatory reporting requirements, development of an MEPC resolution complemented by amendments to section 2.2 of the 2017 *Guidelines for the implementation of MARPOL Annex V (resolution MEPC.295(71))* are being discussed.

PPR 8 is expected to re-establish the CG (for developing the draft amendments to MARPOL Annex V and draft amendments to the 2017 Guidelines for the implementation of MARPOL Annex V (Resolution MEPC.295(71))) and request MEPC 76 for an extension of the target completion year for this output to 2023.

Lloyd's Register's view

Lloyd's Register will observe the discussion and follow the developments.

Any other business

(Agenda item 11)

Revised proposed protocol for the verification of Ballast water compliance monitoring devices

Additional Information

Lloyd's Register's [PPR 7 Summary Report](#) and [MEPC 75 Summary Report](#)

PPR 7 considered the microbe size classes that should be tested and agreed that the two size classes defined in regulation D-2 should both be included in the tests. A reference to the *Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)* that existed in the current guidance was also deleted, as it was rendered obsolete in light of the amendment to regulation E-1. However, it was noted that the HSSC contained references to compliance with regulation D-2 in connection with Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) commissioning testing, which was not appropriate. III 7 will consider this in the next revision of the HSSC.

MEPC 74 had invited concrete proposals for a standard for the verification of ballast water compliance monitoring devices (CMDs). Due to time restraints, PPR 7 was unable to consider the documents on the development of a draft protocol for verification of ballast water compliance monitoring devices. This included substantive consideration of the main concepts raised within the relevant documents.

The proposal received by PPR 8 takes into account the discussion at PPR 7 as well as the developments that took place at the ICES/IOC/IMO WGBOSV, which worked intersessionally with interested delegations to progress this work, and presents the revised protocol for the sub-committee's review and discussion. Comments on the draft protocol have also been received by the sub-committee.

Note: The Working Group on Ballast and Other Ship Vectors (WGBOSV) is a joint working group that follows and supports the work of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), and the IMO. ICES/IOC/IMO WGBOSV, which is composed of an international group of scientists with extensive knowledge of ship-mediated biological invasions, strives to advance the scientific understanding needed to guide management and policy decisions.

PPR 8 is expected to discuss the submissions received for a standard for verification of ballast water compliance monitoring devices (CMDs) with a view to establishing a correspondence group to progress the work intersessionally and agreeing a final output at PPR 9.



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