



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-013-10

Rev. Jul/2021

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Implementation of MARPOL Annex I, Chapter 8 – Prevention of Pollution
During Transfer of Oil Cargo Between Oil Tankers at Sea**

Reference: (a) *MARPOL, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from
Ships, Consolidated Edition 2017*
(b) **RMI Marine Guideline 2-11-15**, *Organizations Acting on Behalf of the
Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator*

PURPOSE

This Notice highlights the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator's (the "Administrator") implementation of MARPOL Annex I, Chapter 8 on the transfer of oil cargoes between oil tankers at sea (STS operations).

It supersedes Rev. 11/14 and has been amended to incorporate STS operations plan approval services offered by the Administrator. It has also been streamlined to eliminate repeating the MARPOL requirements verbatim.

APPLICABILITY

This Notice applies to RMI-flagged oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage and above engaged in STS operations. Exempt from the Requirements are those provided by Regulation 40 of MARPOL Annex 1.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 STS Operations Plan

- 1.1 Each oil tanker subject to MARPOL Annex I, Chapter 8 involved in STS operations must carry on board an STS operations plan approved by the Administrator (msc@register-iri.com) or an RMI-authorized Recognized Organization (RO)¹.

1. See Marine Guideline [2-11-15](#).

- 1.2 The plan must meet all of the Regulation 41 requirements, including taking into account the best practice guidelines identified by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and others².
- 1.3 Every oil tanker to which this Notice applies must operate in compliance with its approved STS operations plan.

2.0 Notification

- 2.1 The advanced notification requirements in Regulation 42 must be adhered to when STS operations are planned within the territorial sea, or the exclusive economic zone of a Party to MARPOL.
- 2.2 National competent authority contact information for notifications is provided in [MSC-MEPC.6/Circ](#), (updated quarterly) or the [Global Integrated Shipping Information System](#), Contact Points module.

2. See the latest editions of the IMO's *Manual on Oil Pollution*, Section 1, "Prevention" and the *Ship-to-Ship Transfer Guide for Petroleum, Chemicals, and Liquefied Gases* published by OCIMF, CDI, ICS, and SIGGTO, "Ship-to-Ship Transfer Guide, Petroleum".