

Unified Interpretations of Annex IV

1 Definition of “a similar stage of construction”

Reg. 1.1.1 “A similar stage of construction” means the stage at which:

- .1 construction identifiable with a specific ship begins; and
- .2 assembly of that ship has commenced comprising at least 50 tonnes or one per cent of the estimated mass of all structural material, whichever is less.

2 Building contract date, keel-laying date and delivery date

Reg. 1.1.2 1 Under certain provisions of the SOLAS and MARPOL Conventions, the application of regulations to a ship is governed by the dates:

- .1 for which the building contract is placed on or after dd/mm/yyyy; or
- .2 in the absence of a building contract, the keel of which is laid or which is at a similar stage of construction on or after dd/mm/yyyy; or
- .3 the delivery of which is on or after dd/mm/yyyy.

2 For the application of such provisions, the date on which the building contract is placed for optional ships should be interpreted to be the date on which the original building contract to construct the series of ships is signed between the shipowner and the shipbuilder provided:

- .1 the option for construction of the optional ship(s) is ultimately exercised within the period of one year after the date of the original building contract for the series of ships; and
- .2 the optional ships are of the same design plans and constructed by the same shipbuilder as that for the series of ships.

3 The application of regulations governed as described in paragraph 1, above, is to be applied as follows:

- .1 if a building contract signing date occurs on or after the contract date specified for a particular set of regulation amendments, then, that set of regulation amendments applies;
- .2 only in the absence of a building contract does the keel laying date criteria apply and, if a ship’s keel laying date occurs on or after the keel laying date specified for a particular set of regulation amendments, then, that set of regulation amendments applies; and
- .3 regardless of the building contract signing date or keel laying date, if a ship’s delivery date occurs on or after the delivery date specified for a particular set of regulation amendments, then, that set of regulation amendments applies except in the case where the Administration has accepted that the delivery of the ships was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the shipbuilder and the owner.*

3 Installed on board a ship on or after 1 January 2010

Reg. 9.1.1 For application of resolution MEPC.159(55), the phrase “installed on board a ship on or after 1 January 2010” shall be interpreted as follows:

- .1 For new ships, installations on board ships the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2010.
- .2 For existing ships, new installations with a contractual delivery date to the ship on or after 1 January 2010 or, in the absence of a contractual delivery date, the actual delivery of the equipment to the ship on or after 1 January 2010.

* Refer to Unified Interpretation of “Unforeseen delay in the delivery of ships” (MSC.1/Circ.1247 and MARPOL Annex I, Unified Interpretation 6).

4 Standard discharge connections

Reg. 10.1

All ships subject to Annex IV, irrespective of their size and of the presence of a sewage treatment plant or sewage holding tank, shall be provided with a pipeline and the relevant shore connection flange for discharging sewage to port sewage treatment facility.