



## Marine Notice 8/2012 Supersedes 7/2008

### Transfer Operations at Sea and in Coastal Waters

This Notice supersedes Marine Notice 7/2008 which is now cancelled.

The purpose of this revised Marine Notice is to provide information to ship owners and operators about new regulations applying to the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea.

The Marine Notice also reminds ship owners and operators that AMSA should be notified of other ship to ship (STS) transfer operations, such as the transfer of persons, cargo or other goods undertaken at sea in the vicinity of the Australian coast or within port limits.

#### Transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea

Amendments to Annex I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) concerning the transfer of oil cargo at sea have recently entered into force internationally and for Australia. The new regulations apply to STS operations involving oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage and above, conducted on or after 1 April 2012.

A new Chapter 8 entitled *Prevention of Pollution During Transfer of Oil Cargo Between Oil Tankers At Sea* has been added to MARPOL Annex I which mandates:

- an STS Operations Plan for oil tankers involved in STS operations;
- qualifications for the person in overall advisory control of STS operations;
- notification of scheduled STS operations not less than 48 hours in advance; and

- a requirement for records of STS operations to be retained on board.

A consequential amendment has also been made to the Supplement to the International Oil Pollution Prevention (IOPP) Certificate, Form B.

Full details of the new requirements can be found in the Australian implementing legislation, sections 11B –11G of the *Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1983* and sections 10.8A - 10.8G of Marine Orders Part 91.

#### All other transfer operations at sea

In addition to the above regulatory requirements for STS operations involving oil tankers, all necessary precautions should be taken whenever a ship-to-ship transfer of persons, cargo or other goods is undertaken at sea in the vicinity of the Australian coast or within port limits.

To this end, and to enable the appropriate maritime safety information to be promulgated, it is requested that early notification be forwarded to the Authority when such operations are intended.

Notifications for the purpose of transfer operations at sea other than by oil tankers should be directed to the Authority's Canberra office, as listed below, and to the appropriate AMSA area office.

Information provided should include:

- the date and location of the proposed transfer and full details of the ships involved;
- the purpose of the transfer;
- materials to be transferred;

- whether other craft (such as tugs) are to be in attendance and what equipment is to be provided to assist; and
- arrangements for oversight of other vessels in the transfer area.

Notifications should be forwarded to:

General Manager  
Maritime Operations Division  
Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
PO Box 2181  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone: 02 6279 5935

Fax: 02 6279 5071

Email: [Reports@amsa.gov.au](mailto:Reports@amsa.gov.au)

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Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
GPO Box 2181  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
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