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21 May 2018

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATIONS 17 AND 36 OF MARPOL ANNEX I**

### **Communication received from the Administration of Liberia**

1 A communication has been received from the Administration of Liberia concerning the authorization of the use of electronic oil record books.

2 In accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of MARPOL, the details are annexed hereto and circulated to Parties to the Convention and Member States of the Organization for their information and appropriate action, if any.

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ANNEX

COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OF LIBERIA



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
PERMANENT MISSION TO  
THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION



May 10, 2018

PMR/5250/18

H.E. Kitack Lim,  
Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7 SR

Your Excellency:

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization and has the honor to bring to the attention of Your Excellency a matter involving the use of electronic record books.

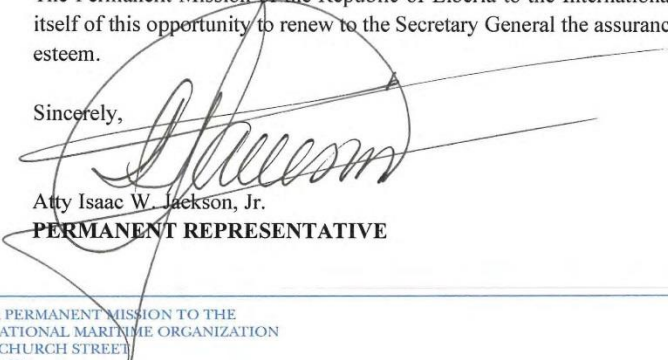
Your Excellency, the Republic of Liberia has been actively involved in development of IMO guidelines on the use of electronic certificates and electronic record books to facilitate maritime operations, accurate record book entries and to reduce administrative burdens. Taking into account IMO's recent work in developing guidelines on the use of electronic record books, the Liberian Administration has approved Liberian Registry's electronic oil record book for use onboard Liberian registered vessels as an alternative to the traditional hard copy oil record books under MARPOL Annex I, regulations 17 (Part I) and 36 (Part II).

The Liberian electronic oil record book can be used on board after the vessel receives a 'Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book' issued by the Liberian Administration. Vessels using electronic oil record book(s) must continue to maintain a traditional hard copy oil record book, until amendments to MARPOL Annex I on use of electronic record books enter into force. The hard copy oil record book will be considered the vessels official oil record book.

Your Excellency, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia respectfully requests that the attached information is circulated for the information of IMO Member States and Organizations.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the International Maritime Organization avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General the assurances of its high consideration and esteem.

Sincerely,

  
Atty Isaac W. Jackson, Jr.

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

LIBERIA PERMANENT MISSION TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION  
107 FENCHURCH STREET  
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THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

Office of  
Deputy Commissioner  
of Maritime Affairs

**Subject: Use of Electronic Record Books**

The Liberian Maritime Administration has authorized, through Marine Notice POL-012 (Rev. 10/17), the use of electronic oil record book, e-ORB, on board Liberian flagged vessels as an alternative to the traditional hard copy oil record book (ORB). The Liberian Registry's electronic oil record book was developed according to MARPOL Annex I and the draft *Guidance for the use of electronic record books under MARPOL*.

The e-ORB can be used on board the Liberian flagged vessels only after the vessel is issued a 'Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book', as evidence that the vessel is in compliance with the flag regulations. An example of the 'Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book' is attached.

The e-ORB record book is a software application designed to replace traditional hard copy oil record books under MARPOL Annex I, regulations 17 (Part I) and 36 (Part II) and facilitate accurate ORB entries in an efficient electronic format.

**Transition Period**

The Liberian Administration has determined that a transitional period is required in order to facilitate inspections by port State control authorities that may not be fully familiar with electronic oil record books. The transitional period will last until the amendments to MARPOL Annex I to include the use of electronic record books enter into force. The necessary amendments are expected to be adopted in 2018 and enter into force in 2019, after which the Liberian Administration will update this Marine Notice.

During the transitional period, owners and Masters utilizing the e-ORB on board are required to maintain a hard copy version of the applicable MARPOL Annex I oil record book Part I and/or Part II in separate binders. These binders will serve as the vessel's official ORB during the transitional period. The eORB includes and will generate entries as is currently required for a hard copy ORB under MARPOL and includes instructions for maintaining a paper ORB. Samples of a paper ORB are also included in MARPOL Annex I, Appendix II (ORB Part I) and Appendix III (ORB Part II). Printouts corresponding to the attached samples or generic MARPOL sample are equally accepted by the Liberian Administration, when entries are physically signed by the Officer in Charge and each completed page physically signed by the Master.

The hard copy MARPOL Annex I Part I and/or Part II oil record book shall contain:

1. A printed version of the following:

- a. For ORB Part I – Machinery space operations:
    - i. MARPOL Annex I, Appendix III - Form of Oil Record Book, including vessel details, period (dates) covered “from” “to”, Introduction and List of Items to be Recorded; and
  - b. For ORB Part II – Cargo/ballast operations:
    - i. MARPOL Annex I, Appendix III - Form of Oil Record Book, including vessel details, period (dates) covered “from” “to”, Plan View of Cargo and Slops Tanks, Introduction and List of Items to be Recorded.
2. Printed pages of entries from the electronic system shall be in the format specified in the relevant ORB Part I or ORB Part II and sequentially numbered.
  3. Each printed entry is to be physically signed by the Officer in Charge.
  4. Each printed page of completed entries is to be physically signed by the Master.
  5. The binders shall be made available for examination when requested by Liberian flag State inspectors or Port State Control.
  6. The printed version shall not have any handwritten addition or correction that is not reflected in the e-ORB. If revision of an entry is required after printing, it shall be done in the e-ORB and all applicable pages reprinted.
  7. The first entry in the e-ORB and thus the first page printed from the e-ORB should indicate a date after the date indicated on the Liberian Administration issued ‘Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book’.

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

Office of  
Deputy Commissioner  
of Maritime Affairs

**EXAMPLE DECLARATION  
DECLARATION OF MARPOL ELECTRONIC RECORD BOOK**

Issued under the authority of the Government of  
**The Republic of Liberia**

*In reference to the requirements set out in the  
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)*

Name of ship

IMO number

Flag State of ship

Gross tonnage

This is to declare that the electronic system designed to record entries in accordance with MARPOL Annex(es) .. installed on board the ship listed above has been assessed by this Administration to meet the relevant requirements as set out in MARPOL and is consistent with the Guidelines developed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Electronic Record Book Manufacturer

Electronic Record Book Supplier

Electronic Record Book Installer

Electronic Record Book Software  
Name/Version

Electronic Record Book is in accordance  
with MEPC Resolution/s

Date of installation  
(dd/mm/yy)

A copy of this declaration should be carried on board a ship fitted with this Electronic Record Book at all times.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret C. Ansumana  
Senior Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs  
Republic of Liberia

DATE (dd/mm/yy)

**e-ORB Part I (Machinery Space Operations)**

Vessel Name : Vessel Demo  
Vessel Details : IMO 000000, Call Sign ABCD, Flag Greece

Date	Code	Item No	Record of Operations/Signature of Officer in charge
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	CHEMICAL CLEAN (C) (FR: 15-20)
		11.2	15.00 MP
		11.3	5.00 MP
			SIGNED: DAVID PHILLIPS, 2ND ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	INCINERATOR SLUDGE TANK (S) (FR: 15-26)
		11.2	8.00 MP
		11.3	4.00 MP
			SIGNED: DAVID PHILLIPS, 2ND ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	SLUDGE TANK (P) (FR: 16-25)
		11.2	15.00 MP
		11.3	7.00 MP
			SIGNED: DAVID PHILLIPS, 2ND ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	WASTE OIL TANK (P) (FR: 12-18)
		11.2	8.00 MP
		11.3	5.00 MP
			SIGNED: DAVID PHILLIPS, 2ND ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	CHEMICAL CLEAN (C) (FR: 15-23)
		11.2	15.00 MP
		11.3	8.00 MP
			SIGNED: JESUS FERNANDEZ, CHIEF ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	INCINERATOR SLUDGE TANK (S) (FR: 15-26)
		11.2	8.00 MP
		11.3	4.00 MP
			SIGNED: JESUS FERNANDEZ, CHIEF ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016

C/E e-Signature : 

Name of C/E : Jesus Fernandez

Date : 10/20/2016 6:53:07 PM

Master e-Signature : 

Name of Master : James Lawrence

Date : 10/20/2016 6:53:41 PM

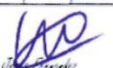
Printed on : 14 Nov 2016 01:57:45  
Printed by : e-ORB 2.0.0.1 - passio

17

**e-ORB Part I (Machinery Space Operations)**

Vessel Name : Vessel Demo  
Vessel Details : IMO 000000, Call Sign ABCD, Flag Greece

Date	Code	Item No	Record of Operations/Signature of Officer in charge
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	SLUDGE TANK (P) (FR: 16-25)
		11.2	15.00 MP
		11.3	7.00 MP
			SIGNED: JESUS FERNANDEZ, CHIEF ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	WASTE OIL TANK (P) (FR: 12-18)
		11.2	8.00 MP
		11.3	5.00 MP
			SIGNED: JESUS FERNANDEZ, CHIEF ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	CHEMICAL CLEAN (C) (FR: 15-22)
		11.2	15.00 MP
		11.3	5.00 MP
			SIGNED: DAVID PHILLIPS, 2ND ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	INCINERATOR SLUDGE TANK (S) (FR: 15-26)
		11.2	8.00 MP
		11.3	4.00 MP
			SIGNED: DAVID PHILLIPS, 2ND ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	SLUDGE TANK (P) (FR: 16-25)
		11.2	15.00 MP
		11.3	7.00 MP
			SIGNED: DAVID PHILLIPS, 2ND ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016
19-OCT-2016	C	11.1	WASTE OIL TANK (P) (FR: 12-18)
		11.2	8.00 MP
		11.3	5.00 MP
			SIGNED: DAVID PHILLIPS, 2ND ENGINEER, 20-OCT-2016

C/E e-Signature : 

Name of C/E : Jesus Fernandez

Date : 10/20/2016 2:41:12 AM

Master e-Signature : 

Name of Master : James Lawrence

Date : 10/20/2016 2:41:51 AM

Printed on : 14 Nov 2016 01:57:45  
Printed by : e-ORB 2.0.0.1 - passio

27

Example of a printed copy of the entries from the eORB.

The screenshot displays the eORB software interface. At the top, there are menu options: Tank Tables, e-Book, Configuration, Administration, Help, Support, and Advanced. A notification bar indicates '5 page(s) require Master e-Signature.' Below this is a toolbar with icons for Insert Operation, e-ORB, MyNotes, Tank Transactions, e-Signature, and e-ORB. A search bar is present with the text 'Find: Strikethrough'. The main area is a data table with the following columns: #, Date UTC, Code, L, Item Num., Sub Num., Operation, T, Undersigned (Officer), T, Undersigned (C/O), T, Undersigned (Master), T, e-Signature Status, T, Editor, T, Start Point (Latitude), T, Start Point (Longitude), T, End Point (Latitude).

#	Date UTC	Code	L	Item Num.	Sub Num.	Operation	T	Undersigned (Officer)	T	Undersigned (C/O)	T	Undersigned (Master)	T	e-Signature Status	T	Editor	T	Start Point (Latitude)	T	Start Point (Longitude)	T	End Point (Latitude)	
1	19-OCT-2016	C		11	1	CHEMICAL CLEAN (C) FR 15-23		David Phillips		Jesus Fernandez		James Lorenzini		Verified		pass							
					2	10.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	5.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	1	INCUBATOR SUDGE TANK (S) FR 15-26		David Phillips		Jesus Fernandez		James Lorenzini		Verified		pass							
					2	8.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	4.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	1	SUDGE TANK (P) FR 16-25		David Phillips		Jesus Fernandez		James Lorenzini		Verified		pass							
					2	10.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	7.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	1	WASTE OIL TANK (P) FR 12-19		David Phillips		Jesus Fernandez		James Lorenzini		Verified		pass							
					2	8.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	5.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	1	CHEMICAL CLEAN (C) FR 15-23		Jesus Fernandez		Jesus Fernandez		James Lorenzini		Verified		pass							
					2	10.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	5.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	1	INCUBATOR SUDGE TANK (S) FR 15-26		Jesus Fernandez		Jesus Fernandez		James Lorenzini		Verified		pass							
					2	8.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	4.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	1	SUDGE TANK (P) FR 16-25		Jesus Fernandez		Jesus Fernandez		James Lorenzini		Verified		pass							
					2	10.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	7.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	1	WASTE OIL TANK (P) FR 12-19		Jesus Fernandez		Jesus Fernandez		James Lorenzini		Verified		pass							
					2	8.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	5.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		12	2	0.50 M <sup>3</sup> SUDGE OIL RESIDUES TRANSFERRED FROM SUDGE TANK (P)		Pending						Awaiting verification		pass							
+	19-OCT-2016	D		13	1	1.00 M <sup>3</sup> BUDGE OILY WATER FROM BUDGE HOLDING TANK (P) FR 13-31 OF																	
					14	0.90 M <sup>3</sup> BUDGE OILY WATER FROM BUDGE HOLDING TANK (P) FR 13-31 OF																	
					15	COLLECTED IN SUDGE TANK (P) FR 16-25 OF CAPACITY 10.00 M <sup>3</sup> T. 1.00																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	1	SUDGE TANK (P) FR 16-25		Pending						Awaiting verification		pass							
					2	10.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	7.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	4	1.00 M <sup>3</sup> COLLECTED FROM BUDGE HOLDING TANK (P) FR 13-31																	
					1	CHEMICAL CLEAN (C) FR 15-23		Pending						Awaiting verification		pass							
					2	10.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	5.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	1	INCUBATOR SUDGE TANK (S) FR 15-26		Pending						Awaiting verification		pass							
					2	8.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
					3	4.00 M <sup>3</sup>																	
+	19-OCT-2016	C		11	4	6.00 M <sup>3</sup> SUDGE TANK (P) FR 16-25																	

Operations (All): 35  
Server Instance: GSKCOP-IVPHSOPAS Database: eORB Demo Company: Preventors at Sea Ltd. Product: e-ORB Version: 2.0.1 Editor: pass License: This version has 137 days left to use the e-ORB. Server Date Time: UTC 13 Nov 2016 23:10:27

Example of entries in the eORB.