

GUIDANCE NOTE 05/2019 (Rev 1)

Acceptance of Electronic Record Books (eRBs) under MARPOL

To: Owners, Managers, Masters and Recognized Organizations of Cayman Islands Ships

1. PURPOSE

This guidance note has been published to advise Owners, Operators, Masters, Seafarers and Port State Control Officers of Cayman Islands Shipping Registry's acceptance of Electronic Record Books (eRBs) under MARPOL. (*MARPOL Annexes I, II, V, VI and the NOx Technical Code*)

2. BACKGROUND

The International Maritime Organization's Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) session 74 in May 2019 adopted resolutions amending to MARPOL Annexes I, II, V and VI and the Technical Code on Control of Emission of Nitrogen Oxides from Marine Diesel Engines (NOX Technical Code 2008) to enable the use of electronic record books.

Furthermore, Resolution MEPC.312(74) adopted the *Guidelines for the use of electronic record books under MARPOL*

The Cayman Island Shipping Registry invites Owners and Managers of Cayman Islands Registered ships to apply the Guidelines on a trial basis now, or when the amendments to MARPOL I, II, V and VI and the NOx Technical Code come into force on 1st October 2020.

3. CRITERIA FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRONIC OIL RECORD BOOKS

The software must be verified by a Recognized Organization as meeting the guidelines contained in MEPC.312(74)¹. On successful verification the Recognized Organization may issue a "*Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book*" in accordance with the Appendix to MEPC.312(74).

¹ "Guidelines for the use of Electronic Record Books under MARPOL", adopted 17 May 2019

Prior to the entry into force date, ships are advised to maintain a hard copy record book in accordance with the appropriate annex of the MARPOL Convention and NOx Technical Code in addition to any eRB being maintained onboard.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF eRBs IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The attention of owners, managers and masters is drawn to the stated position of the USA with regard to eRBs. At MEPC 74 the delegation of the United States asked for the following statement to be included in the report of the Committee –

*“With regard to the decisions by this Committee to adopt amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, V and VI, and the NOx Technical Code to allow for the use of electronic record books along with adoption of MEPC resolution on Guidelines for the use of electronic record books under MARPOL, and in keeping with our previous statement, **the United States reserves its position** and requests this be recorded in the final report of the Committee”*

As such, ships trading in the United States should maintain a hard copy record book in accordance with the appropriate annex of the MARPOL Convention and NOx Technical Code in addition to any eRB being maintained onboard.