

Draft MS Notice No. xx of 2023

[Exemption of UNSP Barges from Survey and Certification Requirements of MARPOL]

[Stakeholders comments by 3rd October, 2023 to vikrant.rai@gov.in]

1. The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its seventy-sixth session, adopted amendments to MARPOL Annexes I and IV and amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, concerning the exemption of unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barges from certain survey and certification requirements, by resolutions MEPC.330 (76) and MEPC.328 (76), respectively. The copies of both the Resolutions are attached with this MS Notice.
2. The Amendments has entered into force on 1 November 2022 and the exemption certificate(s) for a UNSP barge should be issued by the Administration or authorized RO, in accordance with regulations 3.7 and 9.2 of MARPOL Annex I, regulations 3.2 and 7.2 of MARPOL Annex IV, regulations 3.4 and 8.4 of MARPOL Annex VI, using the forms set out in the appendices of MARPOL Annexes I, IV and VI.
3. The Agreement with Recognized Organizations starting with effect from 1 August 2023 has delegated initial and renewal survey and certification to all the ROs related to exemption certificates to be issued to UNSP barges.
4. This MS Notice details the procedures for issuance of the same.
5. **Procedures for granting exemptions:**
 - i. The ship-owner or operator should apply to the Recognized Organization (RO), for exemption(s) with relevant information on the exemption(s) conditions for UNSP barges and relevant drawings (General Arrangement Plan, Capacity Plan and any other plans or documents, as necessary).
 - ii. After a satisfactory review of the submitted plans and information, a survey of the UNSP barge should be carried out to confirm if the actual arrangements on board comply with the exemption conditions, as appropriate.
 - iii. Certificate for exemption of a UNSP barge from certain survey and certification requirements under MARPOL Annexes I, IV and /or VI should be issued

6. The format of the Certificates issued should be in accordance with the following:
 - i. The Form of International Oil Pollution Prevention Exemption Certificate for UNSP Barges to be in accordance with Appendix 4 of Resolution MEPC 330(76).
 - ii. The Form of International Sewage Pollution Prevention Exemption Certificate for UNSP Barges to be in accordance with Appendix 2 of Resolution MEPC 330(76).
 - iii. The Form of International Air Pollution Prevention Exemption Certificate for UNSP Barges to be in accordance with Appendix XI of Resolution MEPC 328(76).
7. **Obligation of ROs:** All exemptions issued are required to be uploaded on IMO GISIS platform and accordingly RO shall forward a pdf copy of certificate along with relevant details for uploading on GISIS to Engineering Wing of the Directorate at eng-dgs@nic.in within 15 days of issuance of such certificate.

Sd/-
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