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LC-LP.1/Circ.22
30 July 2008

CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION BY DUMPING OF WASTES AND OTHER MATTER, 1972 AND ITS 1996 PROTOCOL

Invitation to reporting on activities related to disposal at sea of wastes or other matter

INVITATION

1 This circular is an invitation to report on the activities conducted in your country related to disposal at sea of wastes and other matter for **2007**. This invitation is extended to Contracting Parties to both the London Convention and Protocol to provide such reports on their activities covered by these instruments, preferably before **1 October 2008**. Those Contracting Parties, which have already provided this information, need not respond to this circular.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

2 You may recall that, on 26 July 2007, Contracting Parties to the London Convention and Protocol were last invited, pursuant to Article VI(4) of the London Convention and article 9.4 of the London Protocol respectively, to report on their activities covered by these instruments related to waste disposal at sea for 2006 (LC-LP.1/Circ.15). The long-term average rate of return of such reports is slightly higher than 50% (current membership of London Convention is 84 Parties and 35 Parties to its 1996 Protocol).

3 You may also recall that in an effort to improve reporting under the London Convention and Protocol, and to increase the rate of return of reports, the 26th Consultative Meeting endorsed a "Short-term and Long-term Strategy to improve reporting under the London Convention" that included the development of an electronic form for Parties to report their dumping activities. In 2005, the 27th Consultative Meeting endorsed a new electronic format (the **E-Form**), for use on a trial basis for reports in the years before 2004, and for future reports. The Meeting also agreed that reporting on paper (preferably in the E-Form layout) would remain possible for Parties if they wished.

4 Explanatory notes for the submission of data related to dumping of wastes at sea, via the E-Form, are set out at annex to this circular. The E-Form is also downloadable from the London Convention/London Protocol website at URL: <http://www.londonconvention.org> or http://www.imo.org/dynamic/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1553. Please note that it is intended that for all reporting years the submission date for reports will be **1 October** in the year following the reporting year, i.e. **1 October 200[x]+1 for reporting on activities in year 200[x]**.

5 In accordance with Article VI(4) of the London Convention and article 9.4 of the London Protocol permits issued for dumping at sea have to be notified to the Secretariat. The same applies for the information on amounts of wastes actually dumped and the sites where dumping has been carried out. In addition, the results of monitoring studies carried out for the purpose of the London Convention and Protocol should be reported, particularly where an impact hypothesis approach has been used in accordance with the “Guidelines for the Assessment of Wastes or Other Matter that May be Considered for Dumping” (LC 19/10, annex 2), or any of the “Specific Guidelines” developed since then (LC/SG 24/11, annexes 3 to 10).

6 In order to assess, on a global level, the overall sea dumping activities, the Consultative Meeting requested Contracting Parties that do **not** dispose wastes at sea to send the Secretariat a “NIL” report, by way of confirmation that no dumping has been carried out. Given the fact that on average only 50% of the Contracting Parties provide annual dumping reports, the Secretariat urges Contracting Parties that do not dispose wastes at sea, to submit such notifications, particularly those who have reported on only part of their activities, to provide the relevant information to the Secretariat, preferably covering the entire period since becoming a Contracting Party to the Convention or the Protocol.

7 Contracting Parties are advised that in cases where wastes, including dredged material, are loaded for disposal at sea in the territory of a Non-Contracting Party by a ship flying the flag of a Contracting Party, then a permit would have to be issued by the responsible authority of the flag State in accordance with Article VII(1)(a) of the London Convention or article 10.1.1 of the London Protocol.

8 In a number of cases, the disposal at sea of dredged material or sewage sludge is being carried out by national or federal authorities without the issue of a licence as such administrations are themselves the licensees. The Consultative Meeting has pointed out that, also in these cases, the provision of the relevant information would assist the Secretariat in preparing complete statistical records concerning dumping at sea.

9 Furthermore, on occasions, reports have been received from Contracting Parties stating that “*no dumping is carried out beyond territorial waters*”. Indeed dumping in internal waters of States does neither fall under the provisions of the London Convention nor under the Protocol, unless Parties to the latter agreed to apply the provisions of the Protocol to those waters (refer article 7.2). Contracting Parties are, however, invited to provide such information on a voluntary basis as such data would form a useful addition to the records.

10 It is emphasized that data submitted “in confidence” would be evaluated and summarized by the Secretariat and that in such cases the respective summaries would not be released without prior approval of the originator of the information concerned.

11 Contracting Parties are advised that in view of the entry into force as of 20 February 1994 of the 1993 amendments to Annexes I and II to the London Convention, permits issued since that date will have to be in accordance with the new waste categories under these amendments. As sea disposal of industrial waste is prohibited from 1 January 1996 onwards pursuant to these amendments, the reports should correspond with this prohibition. Consequently, when reporting on the dumping permits issued in 2007, Contracting Parties are requested to make a distinction according to the following waste categories (refer Annex I(11) to the Convention):

- .1 dredged material;

- .2 sewage sludge;
- .3 fish waste, or materials resulting from industrial fish processing operations;
- .4 vessels and platforms or other man-made structures at sea, provided that material capable of creating floating debris, or otherwise contributing to pollution of the marine environment, has been removed to the maximum extent;
- .5 uncontaminated inert geological materials, the chemical constituents of which are unlikely to be released into the marine environment; and
- .6 uncontaminated organic materials of natural origin.

Contracting Parties to the London Protocol should also report under the category of bulky items, if appropriate (refer to Annex 1, paragraph 1.7).

12 Article VII(4) of the London Convention provides that: “*This Convention shall not apply to those vessels and aircraft entitled to sovereign immunity under international law. However, each Party shall ensure by the adoption of appropriate measures that such vessels and aircraft owned or operated by it act in a manner consistent with the object and purpose of this Convention, and shall inform the Organization accordingly*”. Similarly, article 10.4 of the London Protocol refers to such measures. Contracting Parties to the London Convention and Protocol are, therefore, requested to report to the Secretariat the measures they have taken in accordance with these provisions and to report on quantities and nature of wastes disposed of at sea by vessels and aircraft entitled to sovereign immunity.

Distinction between General and Special Permits

13 Pursuant to Article IV(1)(b) of the London Convention a **prior special permit** is required when wastes or other matter listed in Annex II are dumped, while pursuant to Article IV(1)(c) a **prior general permit** is required for dumping of all other wastes not listed in Annexes I and II. Please note that **no such distinction is made** under the London Protocol.

SIMPLIFIED REPORTING FORMATS

14 In 2002, the reporting format for the annual dumping reports by Contracting Parties under Article VI(4) of the Convention was simplified, as this might increase the return rate of such reports. This reporting format is set out below.

Notification of General Permits issued – London Convention and Protocol

15 The Contracting Parties should send to IMO either directly, or through a Secretariat established under a regional agreement, by 1 October in each year a report of the **General Permits** issued in the previous calendar year.

16 These reports should provide information on the following items:

- .1 name of country;
- .2 year permit(s) issued (and reference number if appropriate);
- .3 approved dumping site(s);

- .4 nature and quantity (tonnes) of waste dumped; and
- .5 dumping method used.

Additionally, information should be provided, whether or not field-monitoring activities were carried out, that is associated with the dumping operations mentioned in these reports (see further attachment 2 to this circular).

17 The LC Scientific Group agreed that information on these five items should be regarded as the minimum reporting requirement for general permits issued, but more information would be welcomed¹. Delegations attending meetings under the London Convention or Protocol should be prepared, when asked, to provide additional information on permits issued by their Administration.

Notification of Special Permits issued – London Convention only

18 **Special permits** should be notified directly to the Secretariat of the London Convention immediately after they have been issued.

19 Such notifications should provide information on the following items:

- .1 issuing authority;
- .2 permit start date/permit expiry date;
- .3 country of origin of wastes or other matter and port of loading;
- .4 detailed specification of waste, or other matter, and description of the process from which the waste or other matter is derived;
- .5 form in which waste, or other matter, is presented for disposal, i.e. solid, liquid or sludge (in the case of liquids or sludge include weight per cent of insoluble compounds);
- .6 total quantity (in metric tonnes²) of waste or other matter covered;
- .7 expected frequency of dumping;
- .8 chemical composition of waste or other matter (this should be sufficiently detailed to provide adequate information, in particular with regard to the concentration of substances listed in Annexes I and II to the Convention; concentrations in mass per mass units³);

1 Permit issuance authorities would be free to collect the data on general permits issued using the extended format as set out in paragraph 18 below, or use any other format in accordance with its national requirements, as long as the five items listed in paragraph 15 are included.

2 Preferably in metric tonnes; if given in cubic metres, additional information on relative density (specific gravity) should be provided under item .9 on this list.

3 Indicate whether on dry-weight or wet-weight basis.

- .9 properties of waste or other matter:
 - solubility;
 - relative density (specific gravity); and
 - pH;
- .10 method of packaging;
- .11 method of release;
- .12 procedure and site for subsequent tank washing;
- .13 approved dumping site:
 - geographical position (latitude and longitude);
 - depth of water; and
 - distance from nearest coast;
- .14 monitoring requirements and plans; and
- .15 additional information with regard to the factors listed in Annex III to the Convention, in particular, on the toxicity of waste or other matter (type of toxicity test, e.g., 96-hr LC₅₀, test species used). In case of chemical waste provide any information available on the biodegradability of the waste.

20 Examples of information to be provided using this 15-item format are given in attachment 1 to this circular.

21 The reasons for retaining the 15-item format for **special permits** was that such permits were, upon receipt by the Secretariat, distributed to focal points in the national administration of all Contracting Parties. With this extended format bilateral consultations would be easier between Parties that might be affected by the proposed dumping operation.

22 In the near future, this circular, and the reporting formats, will be put on the London Convention website (<http://www.londonconvention.org>). Submissions of notification reports by e-mail are most welcome and should be addressed to rcoenen@imo.org.

APPENDICES

- 1 Examples of the notification report for **special permits** issued.
- 2 Reporting of Monitoring Activities Carried out in Accordance with Article VI(1)(d) of the London Convention (may also be used by Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, refer to article 9.1.3):
 - .1 Form of report for the acquisition of data on monitoring of dumping sites as adopted by the Fourth Consultative Meeting (LDC IV/12, annex 7);
 - .2 Alternative notification procedures concerning monitoring activities carried out by Contracting Parties to the London Convention and London Protocol.

ANNEX

Explanatory Notes for the Submission of the 200[x] data for the draft Annual London Convention Report on Dumping of Wastes at Sea, 200[x] and Format for Annual Reporting on Dumping Operations at Sea.

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APPENDIX 1

EXAMPLES OF THE NOTIFICATION REPORT FOR SPECIAL PERMITS ISSUED

The following examples are provided:

1 Dredged Materials

Item of format

- .1 (Issuing authority)
- .2 (15.1.02 - 31.12.02)
- .3 (Port of loading)
- .4 Dredging from (source: estuary, harbour, etc.)
- .5 Silt and clay, 60% solids content (weight)
- .6 50,000 m³
- .7 Once per week
- .8 Levels of contaminants present in solids, e.g., Oil: 200 ppm; Hg: 1 ppm; Cd: 2 ppm; Cu: 50 ppm; Pb: 100 ppm; Zn: 150 ppm; Cr: 50 ppm. (concentrations on dry weight basis)
- .9
 - 60% insoluble
 - 1.5 g/cm³
 - pH 7
- .10 Not applicable
- .11 Immediate release from barge through bottom opening doors
- .12 Not applicable
- .13 (approved dumping site)
- .14 (additional information)

2 Sewage sludge

Item of format

- .1 (Issuing authority)
- .2 (15.1.02 - 31.12.02)
- .3 (Port of loading)
- .4 Primary/digested sewage from (source: town, city)
- .5 Sludges, 9% (weight) solids content
- .6 300,000 t
- .7 Three times per week
- .8 5% organic solids
4% non organic solids
Levels of components, e.g., Oil: 50 ppm; Cd: 0.1 ppm; Hg: 0.1 ppm; Zn: 100 ppm;
Cu: 50 ppm; Cr: 50 ppm; Ni: 10 ppm; Pb: 40 ppm; N: 0.21%; P: 500 ppm
(concentrations on wet-weight basis)
- .9 - 4% insoluble solids
- 1.01 g/cm³
- pH 6
- .10 Not applicable
- .11 Release at 1,000 tonnes/hr from bottom of moving vessel (capacity 2,000 tonnes)
- .12 Not applicable
- .13 (approved dumping site)
- .14 (additional information)

3 Containers, scrap metal and other bulky wastes (e.g., wrecks) covered by Annex II, section B

Item of format

- .1 (Issuing authority)
- .2 (1.8.02 – 31.8.02)
- .3 Identity in the case of ships or aircraft
- .4 Specification of material (e.g., wooden hull, steel hull in the case of ships)

- .5 Not applicable
- .6 Dimensions
- .7 Frequency of dumping (e.g., one dumping only)
- .8 – .12 Not applicable
- .13 (approved dumping site)
- .14 Associated residues of contents of containers of any sort (including in the case of ships or aircraft, cargoes, fuel, etc.); precautions required to prevent pollution by such associated materials; measures taken to ensure wastes will sink and remain in place.

* * *

APPENDIX 2**REPORTING OF MONITORING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE
WITH ARTICLE VI(1)(d) OF THE LONDON CONVENTION
AND ARTICLE 9.1.3 OF THE LONDON PROTOCOL**

- 1 Form of report for the acquisition of data on monitoring of dumping sites as adopted by the 4th Consultative Meeting (LDC IV/12, annex 7)**
 - 1.1 Monitored Area:
 - coordinates of the dumping area (geographical co-ordinates)
 - area map with station locations
 - 1.2 Data on discharged wastes
 - 1.3 Technical data on the method of dumping (depth, initial dilution, etc.)
 - 1.4 Hydrographical data about the area (general direction of current flow, etc., data from Annex III to the Convention)
 - 1.5 Monitoring data:
 - station locations
 - monitored compartment: (water; sediments; living matter)
 - frequency and duration
 - parameters measured in each compartment (with reference to the analysis methods used)
 - general biological parameters (primary productivity, etc.)
 - 1.6 Laboratories and organizations responsible for analysing, sampling, data storage, etc.
 - 1.7 Information on inter-calibration and quality control of results; if so, within what framework (ICES, IAEA, etc.)
 - 1.8 General conclusions resulting from monitoring
 - 1.9 Contact addresses for further information
 - 1.10 Any details of publications (title, number, year)

2 Alternative notification procedures concerning monitoring activities carried out by Contracting Parties to the London Convention

Information category	Special data required	Reporting frequency and format
Summary Assessment Report	.1 Outline of assessment procedures carried out in accordance with Chapter 8 (Monitoring) of the applicable “Specific Guidelines” contained in document LC/SG 24/11, annexes 3 – 10)	Period, depending on level and nature of dumping activities, and past reporting
	.2 Special provisions of permits, including monitoring requirements by activity or site	No prescribed format
	.3 Major findings and conclusions from assessment and monitoring programmes required in accordance with Article VI(1)(d) of the Convention	No prescribed format
Annotated bibliography of detailed dumpsite assessment reports, monitoring results, and related information	.1 citations .2 brief summaries of contents .3 availability and source of documentation	To be submitted to the Secretariat for distribution to all Contracting Parties in accordance with Article XIV(3)(d) of the Convention

ANNEX

**EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE 200[X] DATA FOR THE
DRAFT ANNUAL LONDON CONVENTION REPORT ON DUMPING OF WASTES
AT SEA, 200[X]
AND
FORMAT FOR ANNUAL REPORTING ON DUMPING OPERATIONS AT SEA**

Explanatory Notes

1 Please **submit your 200[x] data to the Secretariat by 1 October 200[x]+1**, preferably in electronic form, either by e-mail (address) or sending a diskette, by using the files (templates) attached and following the instructions in the revised reporting format set out below. Please make sure that you save your text and data files, respectively, before transmitting them. After filling in the relevant files please make a hard copy print-out of your 200[x] data and transmit this print-out by fax/post to the Secretariat (together with diskette if saved in this format):

Mr. René Coenen
Head, Office for the London Convention and Protocol
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR, United Kingdom
Tel: +44-20-75873239 (direct)
Fax: +44-20-75873210
E-mail: rcoenen@imo.org
Web: <http://www.londonconvention.org>

2 **Digital templates** for the reporting of the 200[x] data and information on “Dumping of Wastes at Sea, 200[x]” are attached to the accompanying e-mail. The same files are available on the London Convention website for downloading under “Data Formats”. The three files relevant for the 200[x] reporting can be opened by using MS WORD[®] 97 and MS EXCEL[®] 97 workbook or later versions:

- **PERMIT02.xls** - for Table 1 (created in Microsoft EXCEL[®])
- **AMOUNTS02.xls** - for Table 2 (created in Microsoft EXCEL[®])
- **explanatory notes.doc** - This document (created in Microsoft WORD[®])

3 Please enter your national data in the respective columns and rows of the table templates given by **following the instructions given in the reporting format** and do not change the table templates (e.g., by insertion of new columns or rows) but inform the Secretariat of any problems you may encounter. Please indicate clearly the reference for all additional information by using the file **text02LC.doc**.

4 In order to show the location of dumping sites of each Contracting Party, please **supply appropriate maps clearly showing the location together with the London Convention/London Protocol codes⁴ (same as given in the data tables) of the deposit sites used in 200[x]** and/or let the Secretariat know if the maps used in the previous reports are still valid for indicating the location of dumping sites used in 200[x].

⁴ It is suggested to make an London Convention/Protocol dumping code similar to the “Country Code” as follows: the country code followed by a number starting from 1, 2, etc., e.g., for Belgium this should be B/1, B/2 etc.; for USA it should be USA/1, USA/2, etc. It is the intention that this code is being used every year, for new sites you take a new number. For OSPAR countries, the same codes as used in the OSPAR reporting should be used.

Format for Annual Reporting on Dumping Operations at Sea

The format for Annual Reporting consists of the following parts:

1 General

2 Part I contains information on dumping operations and data of amounts of wastes dumped which change annually and for which a tabular reporting format is appropriate.

3 Part II contains additional information for which a tabular reporting format is inappropriate.

4 Tabular templates:

Contains the tabular templates for the reporting of data and information to be inserted in the following Tables:

Table 1: Overview of number of permits issued, tonnes licensed and tonnes dumped per annum

Table 2: Amounts of Wastes Dumped at Sea annually:

- Details of deposit sites and dumping methods

1 GENERAL

Contracting Parties should report the data for each calendar year in accordance with the formats to the Secretariat via electronic media (diskette or e-mail) **by 1 October** following the year to which the dumping data relates. The Secretariat provides Contracting Parties with the relevant annual file templates.

2 PART I

The templates referred to in Part I consist of the name of the table, the column headings in English and a number of empty rows for the entry of information and data on dumping operations.

The data should be entered by using the continental decimal (with a space as 1000 separator and a comma as decimal separator) with the maximum number of digits available (i.e. with maximum number of digits after the comma) and taking into account the unit given in the column header. This will ensure correct calculations for preparing total amounts. The pre-defined number format in all data cells ensures that the values will be displayed and printed.

Missing information should be indicated as follows:

NA not applicable
NI no information

Table 1 (File = PERMIT02.XLS)

This table requires information on permits issued and amounts licensed.

In the column "Operations regulated by other means" please indicate those operations which had not been licensed for disposal but regulated in another way.

Table 2 (File = AMOUNTS02.XLS)

This table refers to the total amounts dumped at each disposal site for each category of waste indicated.

One row should generally be used for the sum of all amounts of one waste category dumped at one deposit site. However, in the case of dredged material where capital and maintenance material is dumped at the same site, data should be entered on separate lines for the capital and maintenance material.

- **Type of dredging operation**

Maintenance dredging includes material recently deposited by sedimentation processes in harbour, estuary or sea areas.

Capital dredging includes geological material dredged from previously unexposed layers beneath the seabed and surficial material from areas not recently dredged.

For the waste categories mentioned below, one should add in the column “notes” on the following information:

- **Inert material of natural origin**

The type of inert material including the reason for its classification as inert should be indicated; and

- **Vessels and platforms**

The type, the size and weight of vessels or aircraft should be reported.

3 PART II

Tables 1 and 2

Please fill in any information and footnote text referring to the data reported in tables 1 and 2 by using the following headings as guidance:

- **Permits (General remarks)**

Text

Footnotes: number and text

- **Permits (Table 1)**

Text

Footnotes to table 1: number and text

- **Amounts (General remarks)**

Text

- **Amounts (Table 2)**

Text

Footnotes to table 2: number and text

4 TABULAR TEMPLATES

Table 1 – Overview of number of permits issued, tonnes licensed and tonnes dumped in year 200[x]

Contracting Party				
Waste category	Number of permits issued	Number of operations regulated by other means	Tonnes licensed* (dry weight)	Notes
Dredged material				
Inert Material				
Fish waste				
Vessels				
Platforms				
Sewage sludge				
Organic materials				
Bulky waste				

* The final Report from the LC Secretariat would include an additional column on tonnes dumped by Contracting Parties linked to the column total quantity of dry weight in Table 2.

Table 2 – Details of deposit sites and dumping methods

LC/LP codes	Categories of waste							Dredged material			Total quantity		Notes
	Deposit site	Dredged Material	Inert Material	Fish Waste	Vessels Platforms	Sewage sludge	Organic materials	Bulky waste	Origin: Name of water system	Dredging operation type (*)		Dry weight	
									Capital	Maintenance			

(*) See definitions in Part I, Table 2.

(**) Number of vessels; platforms dumped.
