

**16 February 2024****Environment Protection****Circular N° 26****Information on the application of
amendments of Annex V
to the MARPOL Convention
(Garbage record book)***Ships to which the provisions of MARPOL Convention apply*

The IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at its 79th session adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex V on the application of the requirements for **Garbage record book** on board ships. Said amendments enter into force in **1 May 2024**.

These amendments were adopted by the IMO resolution **MEPC.360(79)** provide that by amending Regulation 10 Paragraph 3 of the MARPOL Annex V from 1 May 2024 Garbage record book shall be mandatory on board the ship operating in the marine environment¹, including port areas, which is:

- ✓ of 100 gross tonnage or above²;
- ✓ certified to carry 15 persons or more and is engaged in international voyages;
- or
- ✓ a fixed or floating platform engaged in the exploration, extraction and related processing of seabed mineral resources in the open sea.

Said amendments affect ships flying the Latvian flag of 100 gross tonnage and above engaged in commercial activities and operating in the marine environment, including port areas.

¹ Article 2 Paragraph 4 of the MARPOL Convention:

"Ship" means a vessel of any type whatsoever operating in the marine environment and includes hydrofoil boats, air-cushion vehicles, submersibles, floating craft and fixed or floating platforms.

(<https://likumi.lv/ta/lv/en/starptautiskie-ligumi/id/828-international-convention-for-the-prevention-of-pollution-from-ships-1973-as-modified-by-the-protocol-of-1978-relating-thereto>)

² The initial wording before amendments – *Every ship of 400 gross tonnage and above*

Ships to which the provisions of the Regulation N° 49³ apply

Ship flying the Latvian flag engaged in commercial activities are required to keep records of their garbage handling operations in Ship's Logbook or in Combined Ship's Logbook, which is:

- ✓ of gross tonnage **less than 100** and **operating** in the marine environment;
- ✓ of gross tonnage **less than 400** and **are not operating** in the marine environment;
- ✓ certified to carry **less than 15 persons** irrespective of the trading area, including port area; or
- ✓ certified to carry **15 persons or more** and is **not** engaged in international voyages.

Entries in ship's logbooks shall be made systematically and as soon as possible after the carried out activity or event, by describing the course of the carried out activity or event and formulating the facts precisely.

Ships flying the Latvian flag may purchase the Garbage Record Book from Maritime Administration of Latvia⁴ or ship may use other Record Book if it is in the form specified in Appendix II to Annex V of MARPOL Convention.

³ Cabinet Regulation No. 49 "Regulations Regarding the Safety of Ships"
"Paragraph 731 records of garbage handling operations shall be made in the ship's logbook"
(<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/171626#p731>)

⁴ On the website of Maritime Administration of Latvia, section "Mapshop": <https://www.lja.lv/en/catalog/59>