

SUMMARY OF THE NEW MARINE SEWAGE REGULATIONS

The following summary is for the purpose of simplifying and summarizing the new regulations as they apply to BC salt water recreational boaters.

For actual legal text or the regulations one should refer to Canada Shipping Act 2001, Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and for Dangerous Chemicals.

For reference, the following link will take you directly to those complete regulations, and specifically to the sewage section.

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/acts-regulations/GENERAL/C/csa/regulations/400/csa450/csa450.html#p2d4-sewage>

In the following explanations the paragraph number from the regulations is included in brackets, for reference.

1. TYPES OF VESSELS

The new regulations divide vessels into two categories as far as the pleasure boater is concerned.

These are “new ship” and “existing ship”

A new ship is one that is built after May, 2007 (117.1)

An existing ship is one that is built before that date.(117.1)

2. DATE TO COMPLY

A new ship shall comply with these regs after May, 2007

An existing ship shall comply with these regs within 5 years after May, 2007, with the following exception. (117.2)

Effective immediately no ship shall discharge sewage in a designated sewage area, unless it is through a Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) with an output count of less than 14/100 mL

(118 (B))

See below for more on MSD's, and refer to Annex 1 for a list of designated sewage areas on the west coast.

3. EQUIPMENT

Minimum equipment requirements:

A ship that has a toilet facility shall have an MSD or a holding tank. (119.1)

A ship operating in a designated sewage area that is fitted with an MSD, must also be fitted with a holding tank, unless the MSD has an output count of 14/100mL or less. (119.2)

A sewage comminuting and disinfecting device, although an MSD, does not meet the minimum requirements above (119.3)

For details of holding tank technical requirements, refer to (121) of the regulations.

Marine sanitation devices (MSD's) can be of the four following categories:

1. A sewage treatment plant (not realistic for pleasure boat) (124.1 (a))
2. An MSD with an output count of 14/100mL or less. (124.1 (b))
3. A TYPE 11 MSD as defined by the U.S.A regulations (124.1 (c))
4. A sewage comminuting and disinfectant system . (124.1 (d))
Note that this MSD does not meet minimum equipment requirements above.

4. DOCUMENTATION

If a ship is fitted with a MSD then it shall carry aboard a certifying certificate (126.1)

5. SEWAGE DISCHARGES

No sewage discharges can be made with the following exceptions:

- 1 If outside a designated sewage area,

the discharge is passed thru an MSD having a fecal coliform count less than 250/1000mL. (129.1 (a)), or

the discharge is comminuted and disinfected using an MSD, and the discharge is at least one nautical mile from shore, or (129.1(e)(i)),or

the discharge is made at least 3 nautical miles from shore while the ship is at its fastest practical speed, or (129.1(e)(ii)), or

if in waters less than 6 miles from shore to shore, the discharge is made while the ship is enroute at a speed of at least 4 knots, or as fast as is practical, into the deepest waters located farthest from shore during an ebb tide, or into the deepest fastest moving waters that are the farthest from shore. This does not apply if a reception facility is available.
(129.1(e)(iii))

- 2 If inside a designated sewage area, the discharge is passed thru an MSD having a fecal coliform count less than 14/1000mL. (129.1 (b))

ANNEX 1

DESIGNATED SEWAGE AREAS (BC Coast)

- 1 Carrington Bay (Cortes Island)
- 2 Cortes Bay
- 3 Manson's Landing
- 4 Montague Harbour
- 5 Pilot Bay (Gabriola Island)
- 6 Prideaux Haven
- 7 Roscoe Bay
- 8 Smuggler Cove
- 9 Squirrel Cove