

Commonwealth of Dominica



Office of the Maritime Administrator

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Electronic Record Books and Logbook Systems**

**REFERENCES:**

- (a) **SOLAS**, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea*, Consolidated Edition 2014, as amended
- (b) **MARPOL**, *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*, Consolidated Edition 2017, as amended
- (c) **NOx Technical Code**, *Code on Control of Emission of Nitrogen Oxides from Marine Diesel Engines*
- (d) **IMO Assembly Resolution A.916(22)**, *Guidelines for the Recording of Events related to Navigation*, adopted 22 Jan 2002
- (e) **IMO Resolution MEPC.321(74)**, *2019 Guidelines for Port State Control Under MARPOL Annex VI Chapter 3*, adopted 17 May 2019
- (f) **IMO Resolution MEPC.317(74)**, *Amendments to the NOx Technical Code 2008 (Electronic Record Books and Certification requirements for SCR systems)*, adopted 17 May 2019
- (g) **IMO Resolution MEPC.316(74)**, *Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI Electronic Books and EEDI regulations for ice-strengthened ships*, adopted 17 May 2019
- (h) **IMO Resolution MEPC.314(74)**, *Amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, and V (Electronic Record Books)*, adopted 17 May 2019
- (i) **IMO Resolution MEPC.312(74)**, *Guidelines for the use of Electronic Record Books under MARPOL*, adopted 17 May 2019
- (j) **CDP-102**, *Dominica Maritime Regulations*

**PURPOSE:**

This notice establishes the requirements for using Electronic Record Books (ERBs) and other logbook systems to electronically record required operations.

It implements the latest requirements for the approval and use of ERBs under the International

Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and Technical Code on Control or Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides from Marine Diesel Engines (NOx Technical Code 2008).

## **BACKGROUND:**

IMO adopted amendments to MARPOL and the NOx Technical Code allowing ERBs to be used instead of hard copy record books. They will enter into force 1 October 2020. Associated guidelines for the use of MARPOL ERBs were also adopted.

## **APPLICABILITY:**

These requirements apply to all DMA-flagged vessels which use MARPOL ERBs or other logbook systems to electronically record required operations.

MARPOL ERBs may be used beginning 1 October 2020. See §2.0 below.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

### **1.0 GENERAL**

- 1.1** Electronic record and logbooks are permitted to be used under CDP-102. They must be approved by the Administrator only where required by international convention. See §2.0, below.
- 1.2** ERBs and electronic logbooks must take into consideration all relevant international standards.
- 1.3** Seafarers' documentation and records are permitted to be kept electronically provided that companies continue to maintain them according to the recordkeeping requirements in STCW Regulation I/14.1.4.

### **2.0 MARPOL ERBs**

#### **2.1 Usage**

ERBs may be used on board to meet the following record book and recording requirements under the MARPOL Annexes and the NOx Technical Code:

2.1.1 Oil Record Book, parts I and II (MARPOL Annex I, Regulations 17.1 and 36.1);

2.1.2 Cargo Record Book (MARPOL Annex II, Regulation 15.1);

2.1.3 Garbage Record Book, parts I and II (MARPOL Annex V, Regulation 10.3);

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Notice should be directed to the Deputy Maritime Administrator  
Commonwealth of Dominica, 32 Washington Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 USA

[inspection@dominica-registry.com](mailto:inspection@dominica-registry.com)

2.1.4 Ozone-depleting Substances (ODS) Record Book (MARPOL Annex VI, Regulation 12.6);

Existing electronic recording systems for rechargeable systems containing ODS can only be considered an ERB if the system is approved by the Administrator on or before the first International Air Pollution Prevention (IAPP) renewal survey carried out on or after 1 October 2020, but not later than 1 October 2025.

2.1.5 Recording of the tier and on or off status of marine diesel engines (MARPOL Annex VI, Regulation 13.5.3);

2.1.6 Record of Fuel Oil Changeover (MARPOL Annex VI, Regulation 14.6); and

2.1.7 Record Book of Engine Parameters (NOx Technical Code, paragraph 6.2.2.7).

## 2.2 Administrator-Approved Software

Approval will be based on the software conforming with IMO Resolution MEPC.312(74).

2.2.1 CD-MSC 14-20 contains a list of Administrator-approved MARPOL ERB software.

2.2.2 To seek approval for MARPOL ERB software email: [technical@dominica-registry.com](mailto:technical@dominica-registry.com)

## 3.0 DOCUMENTATION FOR PORT STATE CONTROL

3.1 The use of MARPOL ERBs or other logbook systems to electronically record required operations does not lessen shipowners' existing duties to accurately record, maintain, and produce records during an inspection per international requirements.

3.2 The MARPOL ERB must have the capability to produce a hard copy of verified records for the Master to certify as a true copy on request from relevant authorities.

3.3 The dangers of physical and mental fatigue that may be experienced by seafarers must be taken into consideration when agreeing to extend a continuous service period beyond 12 months.

## 4.0 NON-ACCEPTANCE OF ERBs BY PORT STATES

4.1 Though MARPOL allows ERBs to be used in lieu of hard copy record books, not all port States will accept them. Therefore, the administrator recommends that any ships utilizing

ERBs also be able to produce the appropriate documentation in hard copy: