



Merchant Shipping Directorate



ELECTRONIC RECORD BOOKS FOR MARPOL RELATED RECORD KEEPING

Technical Notice MARPOL.11

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations
This Notice Supersedes Technical Notice MARPOL.7.*

The purpose of this Notice, is to provide an update to the shipping industry regarding the acceptance of electronic Record Books (e-RBs) on board Malta flagged vessels for record keeping requirements related to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention).

It is to be noted that as from 1 October 2020, electronic record books can start to be used *in lieu* of hard copy record books.

This Directorate would like to bring to the attention of all concerned relevant guidelines issued by the International Maritime Organisation in the form of Resolution MEPC.312(74), which provides standardised information on approving an electronic record book to ensure that the obligations of MARPOL are met and that there is a consistent approach to approving such systems.

If a shipowner decides to use an electronic record book to record operational logs instead of a hard copy record book, the electronic system utilised must be fully in compliance with the requirements contained in Resolution MEPC.312(74) before it can be approved for use on behalf of this Administration. Any electronic system deemed to meet the relevant criteria will be issued with a written Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book issued in terms Resolution MEPC.312(74). The said Declaration must be carried on board the ship for the purpose of regulatory surveys and inspections.

Malta Transport Centre
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360
Email: tech.tm@transport.gov.mt
www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration



Merchant Shipping Directorate
ISO 9001:2015 certified



The use of electronic record books in no way relieves shipowners of their existing duty under MARPOL to accurately maintain and produce records during an inspection. During an inspection, a ship must be able to produce the electronic record book *and* the written Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book issued in terms of paragraph 5 of Resolution MEPC.312(74). Failure to do so could lead to an inspector requesting to view an alternative verified copy of the records or a hard copy record book for verification.

Furthermore, and notwithstanding the MARPOL Regulations and related guidance, it is important to note that a number of coastal and port States may implement additional or even different domestic regulations and/or requirements in waters falling under their jurisdiction. It is imperative that owners/managers ensure that their crews are familiar with the requirements applicable in the relevant trading areas. Since the regulatory enforcement strategy may differ from one region/port to another, crews must be provided with clear procedures and guidance on this matter well in advance of the vessel's navigation to the intended area of operation and port of call.

The cooperation of all parties concerned is hereby solicited.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

28 September 2020

Malta Transport Centre
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360
Email: tech.tm@transport.gov.mt
www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration



Merchant Shipping Directorate
ISO 9001:2015 certified