



Merchant Shipping Directorate



ELECTRONIC RECORD BOOKS & ELECTRONIC BUNKER DELIVERY NOTES FOR MARPOL RELATED RECORD KEEPING

Technical Notice MARPOL.11 Rev.1

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*
This Notice Supersedes Technical Notice MARPOL.7 & 11.

The Directorate would like to remind all concerned that electronic Record Books (e-RBs) and other related electronic statutory documentation on board Malta flagged vessels are accepted for record keeping requirements, in accordance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention).

Attention is also drawn to the relevant guidelines issued by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) under Resolution [MEPC.312\(74\)](#), which inter alia provides standardised information on the approval of e-RBs.

If a shipowner decides to use an e-RB to record operational logs, the electronic system must be compliant with the requirements contained in above mentioned Resolution prior to approval 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. The said Declaration must be carried on board the ship for the purpose of regulatory surveys and inspections.

Furthermore, regulation 18.5 of MARPOL Annex VI requires the details of fuel oil intended for combustion purposes to be recorded by means of a Bunker Delivery Note (BDN), which shall contain at least the information in Appendix V of MARPOL Annex VI.

Malta Transport Centre
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360

Email: tech.tm@transport.gov.mt
www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration



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In accordance with Regulation 18.6 of MARPOL Annex VI, such BDN shall be kept on board and readily available for inspection at all reasonable times.

In pursuant to par.12.2 of [MEPC.1/Circ.795/Rev.8](#) on the Unified Interpretation to MARPOL Annex VI, the BDN may be acceptable in either hard copy or electronic format. An electronic BDN should be protected from any modification and authentication shall be possible by means of a verification method such as a tracking number, watermark, date and time stamp, QR code and GPS Coordinates.

During an inspection, a ship must be able to produce the e-RB and a written Declaration of the MARPOL Electronic Record Book. Failure to do so could lead to requests for an alternative verified copy of the records or a hard copy record book for verification.

Moreover, notwithstanding the MARPOL Regulations and related guidance, it is imperative to note that a number of coastal and port States may implement additional or even have different domestic regulations and/or requirements in waters falling under their jurisdiction.

To this effect, owners and managers of Maltese registered ships must ensure that their crew is 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.

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