

**[ PHTBP MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 05-2001, June 19, 2001 ]**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR TANK CLEANING OPERATIONS AND THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF DILUTED OIL AND OTHER SUBSTANCES**

I  
AUTHORITY

Presidential Decree Number 600 as amended by PD 979 empowers the PCG to prescribe, promulgate and enforce regulations for the prevention and control of marine pollution.

II  
SCOPE

This Memorandum Circular shall apply to all tank cleaning operations and the collection and disposal of diluted oil within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines.

III  
DEFINITION OF TERMS:

1. Tank Cleaning Operations - methods of removing from the tankers the residue from her previous cargo.
2. Oil - grease of in any kind or any form including but not limited to petroleum fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredge spoil.
3. Oil Mixture - a combination of substances mixed with oil
4. Oil Tanker - a ship constructed or adapted primarily to carry oil in bulk in its cargo spaces and includes combination carriers when carrying cargo or part of oil in bulk.
5. Gas Free - a condition where sufficient air is allowed into a tank, compartment or container thereby reducing the level of any flammable, toxic or inert gases to that required for specific purposes.

IV.  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF MASTER/AGENT & OPERATOR/CONTRACTOR:

A. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. All vessels intended for tank cleaning shall be provided on board with at least a drum (210 ltrs) of chemical oil dispersant duly approved and accredited by the PCG.
2. No tank cleaning operation shall commence without the proper clearance from the PCG. A clearance is required for every tank cleaning operation. Contractors shall be duly accredited by the PCG.
3. No tank cleaning operation shall commence unless a written certification is accomplished by the master/contractor to the effect that the tank is gas free and devoid of toxic substances.
4. Ship personnel shall maintain a close watch against the escape of oil before, during, and after tank cleaning operation. The master of the vessel shall be responsible for any oil spill even when tank-cleaning operation is being undertaken.
5. The master of the vessel shall designate restricted areas aboard ship where smoking or open light is prohibited. These areas shall be easily identified and properly marked.
6. Periodic gas tests shall be undertaken by the contractor and continuously maintained whenever tank-cleaning operations are on going.
7. Owners or refineries and other power plant establishments shall be responsible for the safe disposal of diluted oil, chemicals and other harmful substances to avoid their spill, particularly to any body of water.

B. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Master/Local Agent:

- a. Be administratively liable for the violation of marine pollution rules and regulations.
- b. Assist the PCG in the effective supervision of tank cleaning operations.

2. Operator/Contractor:

- a. Coordinate with DNOCOP and District Commanders as the case may be for the effective and safe conduct of the tank cleaning operations.
- b. Observe all rules and regulations pertaining to prevention.
- c. Liable to the master of the vessel for any oil spill that may occur from the tank cleaning activities.
- d. The contractor shall furnish DNOCOP with relevant information (in a format as shown in Annex A\*) each time a tank cleaning operation is undertaken.