



Ref. T5/1.01

MEPC.1/Circ.675
22 July 2009

**DISCHARGE OF CARGO HOLD WASHING WATER IN THE GULFS AREA AND
MEDITERRANEAN SEA AREA UNDER MARPOL ANNEX V**

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its fifty-ninth session (13 to 20 July 2009), having considered the problems associated with disposal of cargo hold washing water from bulk carriers in accordance with the current requirements of MARPOL Annex V and, recognizing that the issue is linked to the ongoing review of MARPOL Annex V and that until appropriate amendments have been adopted and entered into force, an appropriate solution should be developed, agreed that (MEPC 59/24, paragraph 6.39):

- .1 cargo hold washing water, containing the remnants of any dry cargo material, generated in connection with the ship cleaning its cargo holds should not be treated as garbage under MARPOL Annex V within the *Gulfs Area* and *Mediterranean Sea Area*; and
- .2 such cargo hold washing water may be discharged at a greater distance than 12 nautical miles from shore within these areas. Cargo residues in the washing water must not originate from a cargo material that is classified as a marine pollutant in the IMDG Code.

2 MEPC 59 recalled, however, that paragraph 17.10 of the Guidelines for the implementation of MARPOL Annex V state that such cargo residues are expected to be in small quantities.

3 Member Governments are invited to bring the content of this circular to the attention of those interested, including port State control authorities and coastguard and maritime surveillance services, as appropriate.
