

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA पोत परिवहा मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING गैयहा महादिशालय / DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING

टेलीकोा: 91-22-22613651-54 फैक्स: 91-22-22613655

फक्स: 91-22-22613655 ई-मेल: <u>deship@deshipping.com</u> येब: <u>www.deshipping.com</u> "जहाज भवा" / "JAHAZ BHAVAN" वालर्थंद हीशाचंद मार्ग / W.H. MARG मुंग्ई / MUMBAI – 400 001

Tele: 91-22-22613651-54 Fax: 91-22-22613655 Email:dgship@dgshipping.com

Web: www.dgshipping.com
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Engineering Circular No. 136

Sub.: Detention of a Indian flag vessel due to defective solenoid value of the sewage treatment plant.

- 1. Recently one of the Indian flag vessels was detained by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) on the ground of in- operational sewage treatment plant. The vessel does not have a sewage holding tank and the plant was in running condition in port during the inspection. The Port State Control Officer during his close examination of the plant pointed out that black water under treatment was not flowing between the chambers as per the design.
- During subsequent examination of the plant by the shipboard staff the solenoid valve on the air blower line to the settling tank was found defective. This was resulting in return of flow black water from the settling tank to the aeration tank and hence perhaps causing inadequate treatment of the sewage.
- Following, rectification of the above defects, the plant was tried out and on demonstration of satisfactory operation of the plant the detention order was lifted by the AMSA.

In the light of above, following instruction may be given to the Masters of the vessels:-

- .1 Ensure that all operating personnel are familiar with the content of the operating procedure given in the technical manual of the plant;
- .2 Review if the sewage treatment plant is functioning in accordance with its technical manual;
- .3 If deemed necessary, write a step by step operating and verification procedure in simple language for ready reference of operating personnel to ensure correct operation of the plant; and,
- .4 If the plant does not operate as indicated in the manual, to clarify from the technical superintendent immediately.
- 4. The discharge of sewage shall meet the effluent standards as per IMO Resolution MEPC 159 (55).

5. Diagram of the concerned Sewage Treatment plant (STP) is enclosed as Annexure- I

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Dy. Chief Surveyor- cum-sr.DDG (Tech.)

Encl: As above

