Simplified overview of the discharge provisions of the revised MARPOL Annex V (resolution MEPC.201(62)) which will enter into force on 1 January 2013

(for more detailed guidance regarding the respective discharge requirements please refer to the text of MARPOL Annex V or to the 2012 Guidelines for the Implementation of MARPOL Annex V)

| Type of garbage | Ships outside special areas | Ships within special areas | Offshore platforms (more than 12 nm from land) and all ships within 500 m of such platforms |
|--|--|---|---|
| Food waste comminuted or ground | Discharge permitted ≥3 nm from the nearest land, en route and as far as practicable | Discharge permitted ≥12 nm from the nearest land, en route and as far as practicable | Discharge permitted |
| Food waste not comminuted or ground | Discharge permitted ≥12 nm from the nearest land, en route and as far as practicable | Discharge prohibited | Discharge prohibited |
| Cargo residues ¹ not contained in wash water | Discharge permitted ≥12 nm from the nearest land, en route and as far as practicable | Discharge prohibited | Discharge prohibited |
| Cargo residues¹ contained in wash water | | Discharge permitted ≥12 nm from the nearest land, en route, as far as practicable and subject to two additional conditions² | Discharge prohibited |
| Cleaning agents and additives ¹ contained in cargo hold wash water | Discharge permitted | Discharge permitted ≥12 nm from the nearest land, en route, as far as practicable and subject to two additional conditions² | Discharge prohibited |
| Cleaning agents and additives ¹ in deck and external surfaces wash water | | Discharge permitted | Discharge prohibited |
| Carcasses of animals carried on board as cargo and which died during the voyage | Discharge permitted as far from the nearest land as possible and en route | Discharge prohibited | Discharge prohibited |
| All other garbage including plastics, synthetic ropes, fishing gear, plastic garbage bags, incinerator ashes, clinkers, cooking oil, floating dunnage, lining and packing materials, paper, rags, glass, metal, bottles, crockery and similar refuse | Discharge prohibited | Discharge prohibited | Discharge prohibited |
| Mixed garbage | When garbage is mixed with or contaminated by other substances prohibited from discharge or having different discharge requirements, the more stringent requirements shall apply | | |

These substances must not be harmful to the marine environment.

According to regulation 6.1.2 of MARPOL Annex V the discharge shall only be allowed if: (a) both the port of departure and the next port of destination are within the special area and the ship will not transit outside the special area between these ports (regulation 6.1.2.2); and (b) if no adequate reception facilities are available at those ports (regulation 6.1.2.3).