DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2015–0950]

Sewage Treatment Technology—Type Approval of Marine Sanitation Devices

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will conduct a workshop in Washington, DC to discuss sewage treatment technologies, issues concerning testing of marine sanitation devices for type approval, and issues concerning gray water. This workshop is intended to be an interactive exchange of information between policymakers, industry experts, and interested members of the public.

DATES: The workshop will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 8 and 9, 2015 beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m., Eastern Time. This workshop is open to the public. Please note that the workshop has a limited number of seats and may close early if all business is finished. Contact the Coast Guard (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) by December 4, 2015 to reserve seating. The comment period for the docket closes January 9, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held in conference rooms 8, 9, and 10 of the Department of Transportation Headquarters Building, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., Washington, DC 20590. The building is accessible by public transportation (Navy Yard subway station) or taxi. Parking for privately-owned vehicles is available nearby. Due to security requirements, each visitor must present a valid government-issued photo identification (for example, a driver’s license) in order to gain entrance to the building. Contact the Coast Guard (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) to facilitate the security process related to building access, or to request reasonable accommodation.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions concerning the workshop, please call or email Mr. Wayne Lundy, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 202–372–1379, email Wayne.Lundy@uscg.mil or Ms. Katherine Weiler, Environmental Protection Agency; telephone 202–566–1280, email Weiler.Katherine@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Your comment is important to us. If you submit a comment, please include the docket number shown at the beginning of this notice and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov. If your material cannot be submitted using http://www.regulations.gov, contact us (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) for alternate instructions. Documents mentioned in this notice, and all public comments, are in our online docket at http://www.regulations.gov and can be viewed by following that Web site’s instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted or a final rule is published.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments received will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and the docket, you may review a Privacy Notice concerning the Federal Docket Management System in the March 24, 2005, issue of the Federal Register (70 FR 15086).

This workshop is sponsored by the Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency and is intended to be an interactive exchange of information between policymakers, industry experts, and interested members of the public. The primary topics that will be discussed include:

• Sewage treatment technologies;
• Issues concerning testing of marine sanitation devices for type approval;
• Simple on board checks for verifying performance of marine sanitation devices;
• Impact of gray water on the environment;
• Impact on the ship from processing gray water;
• Technologies for processing of gray water;
• Analytes for considering technologies treating gray water;
• Issues associated with existing federal standards and MARPOL Annex IV equipment standards (International Maritime Organization (IMO) resolution MEPC.227(64));
• Impact of No Discharge Zones; and
• Revision of an industry consensus standard, ASTM F2363—“Standard Specification for Sewage and Graywater Flow Through Treatment Systems”.

Please note that the workshop has a limited number of seats and may close early if all business is finished.
We encourage you to participate and join in discussions, subject to the discretion of the moderator. If you wish to attend the meeting via teleconference, arrange for assistance in attending the meeting in person, or make a presentation, contact us (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: audiovisual arrangements will be available). If you bring written comments to the workshop, you may submit them at the meeting and we will place them on our docket.

This notice is issued under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 552(a).


J. G. Lantz,
Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards, U.S. Coast Guard.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2015–0960]

Coast Guard Acceptance of Sewage Treatment Plants for Type-Approval to International Maritime Organization Resolution MEPC.227(64)

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of Policy and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces its acceptance of sewage treatment plants (also referred to as marine sanitation devices) for type-approval to International Maritime Organization resolution MEPC.227(64) as meeting the requirements for marine sanitation devices. This action will allow manufacturers as well as shipowners and operators the option to take advantage of building and using equipment that meets both domestic and international requirements while also benefitting the environment. The Coast Guard is also seeking information on simple on board checks to verify performance of sewage treatment plants.

DATES: Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before November 16, 2015.

You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG–2015–0880 using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov. See the “Public Participation and Request for Comments” portion of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for further instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about this document call or email Wayne M. Lundy, CG–ENG–3, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 202–372–1379, email Wayne.M.Lundy@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Participation and Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice, indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov. If your material cannot be submitted using http://www.regulations.gov, contact the person in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document for alternate instructions.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments received will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and the docket, you may review a Privacy Act notice regarding the Federal Docket Management System in the March 24, 2005, issue of the Federal Register (70 FR 15086).

Documents mentioned in this notice as being available in the docket, and all public comments, will be in our online docket at http://www.regulations.gov and can be viewed by following that Web site’s instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted.

We are also planning to hold a two-day public workshop in Washington DC in the fall of 2015. We will issue a separate Federal Register notice to announce the date, time, and location of such a workshop. The purpose of the workshop will be to discuss sewage treatment technologies, issues concerning testing of marine sanitation devices for type approval and information on simple on board checks to verify performance of a marine sanitation device. The workshop will also consider issues associated with existing federal standards and MARPOL Annex IV equipment standards (resolution MEPC.227(64)), impact of No Discharge Zones, and issues concerning gray water.

Background and Purpose

Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 159, prescribes requirements for the design and construction of marine sanitation devices (“MSDs”, also referred to as sewage treatment plants) and procedures for certifying that MSDs meet the regulations and standards of the Environmental Protection Agency promulgated under Section 312 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Pub. L. 92–500, § 312, 86 Stat. 871 (October 18, 1972), as amended; classified to 33 U.S.C. 1322). In October 2012, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted resolution MEPC.227(64)—2012 Guidelines on implementation of effluent standards and performance tests for sewage treatment plants. The International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 73/78 (MARPOL) Annex IV requires sewage treatment plants to be type-approved taking into account the standards of IMO Resolution MEPC.227(64). While the United States is not a Contracting Government to MARPOL Annex IV, we recognize that the limits and standards in IMO resolution MEPC.227(64) are more stringent or prescriptive than those requirements in 33 CFR 159 concerning threshold limits and testing of equipment and thus equipment that is type-approved to the MEPC.227(64) standards would also satisfy U.S. threshold effluent limits. Specifically, we have determined that a MSD meeting the design specifications in MEPC.227(64) would exceed the performance specifications for Type II tanks, as listed in 33 CFR 159.53(b), which states that, “[u]nder the test conditions described in §§ 159.126 and 159.126a, the tanks must produce an effluent having a fecal coliform count not greater than 200 per 100 milliliters and suspended solids not greater than 150 milligrams per liter.”

In recognition of this, the Coast Guard believes MSDs type-approved in accordance with the requirements of IMO resolution MEPC.227(64) and installed on U.S. flagged ships comply with those threshold effluent limits in 33 CFR 159.53(b). MSDs must still meet the other requirements contained in part 159, and any inconsistencies between part 159 and MEPC.227(64) must be resolved in favor of part 159. Manufacturers may submit their equipment to a recognized testing facility recognized by the Coast Guard for testing of such equipment and may make a submission to the Coast Guard requesting type approval.

Resolution MEPC.227(64) also contains a process allowing the Coast Guard to certify that a type-approved MSD meets the specific effluent discharge requirements for a vessel to enter Special Areas listed in MARPOL Annex IV. The Coast Guard would certify that the MSD meets the enhanced