

**PART 1700—UNIFORM NATIONAL  
DISCHARGE STANDARDS FOR  
VESSELS OF THE ARMED FORCES**

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AUTHORITY: 33 U.S.C. 1322, 1361.

SOURCE: 64 FR 25134, May 10, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

**Subpart A—Scope**

**§ 1700.1 Applicability.**

(a) This part applies to the owners and operators of Armed Forces vessels, except where the Secretary of Defense finds that compliance with this part is not in the interest of the national security of the United States. This part does not apply to vessels while they are under construction, vessels in drydock, amphibious vehicles, or vessels under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation other than those of the Coast Guard.

(b) This part also applies to States and political subdivisions of States.

**§ 1700.2 Effect.**

(a) This part identifies those discharges, other than sewage, incidental to the normal operation of Armed Forces vessels that require control within the navigable waters of the United States and the waters of the contiguous zone, and those discharges that do not require control. Discharges requiring control are identified in §1700.4. Discharges not requiring control are identified in §1700.5. Federal standards of performance for each required Marine Pollution Control Device are listed in §1700.14. This part is not applicable beyond the contiguous zone.

(b) This part prohibits States and their political subdivisions from adopting or enforcing State or local statutes or regulations controlling the discharges from Armed Forces vessels listed in §§1700.4 and 1700.5 according to the timing provisions in §1700.6, except to establish a no-discharge zone by State prohibition in accordance with §1700.9, or to apply for a no-discharge zone by EPA prohibition in accordance with §1700.10. This part also provides a mechanism for States to petition the Administrator and the Secretary to review a determination of whether a discharge requires control, or to review a Federal standard of performance for a Marine Pollution Control Device, in accordance with §§1700.11 through 1700.13.

**§ 1700.3 Definitions.**

*Administrator* means the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency or that person's authorized representative.

*Armed Forces vessel* means a vessel owned or operated by the United States Department of Defense or the United States Coast Guard, other than vessels that are time or voyage chartered by the Armed Forces, vessels of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or vessels that are memorials or museums.

*Discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel* means a discharge, including, but not limited to: graywater, bilgewater, cooling water, weather deck runoff, ballast water, oil water

separator effluent, and any other pollutant discharge from the operation of a marine propulsion system, shipboard maneuvering system, crew habitability system, or installed major equipment, such as an aircraft carrier elevator or a catapult, or from a protective, preservative, or absorptive application to the hull of a vessel; and a discharge in connection with the testing, maintenance, and repair of any of the aforementioned systems whenever the vessel is waterborne, including pierside. A discharge incidental to normal operation does not include:

- (1) Sewage;
- (2) A discharge of rubbish, trash, or garbage;
- (3) A discharge of air emissions resulting from the operation of a vessel propulsion system, motor driven equipment, or incinerator;
- (4) A discharge that requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the Clean Water Act; or
- (5) A discharge containing source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials regulated by the Atomic Energy Act.

*Environmental Protection Agency*, abbreviated EPA, means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

*Marine Pollution Control Device*, abbreviated MPCD, means any equipment or management practice installed or used on an Armed Forces vessel that is designed to receive, retain, treat, control, or discharge a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, and that is determined by the Administrator and Secretary to be the most effective equipment or management practice to reduce the environmental impacts of the discharge consistent with the considerations in Clean Water Act section 312(n)(2)(B).

*No-discharge zone* means an area of specified waters established pursuant to this regulation into which one or more specified discharges incidental to the normal operation of Armed Forces vessels, whether treated or untreated, are prohibited.

*Secretary* means the Secretary of the United States Department of Defense or that person's authorized representative.

*United States* includes the States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Canal Zone, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

*Vessel* includes every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on navigable waters of the United States or waters of the contiguous zone, but does not include amphibious vehicles.

### Subpart B—Discharge Determinations

#### § 1700.4 Discharges requiring control.

For the following discharges incidental to the normal operation of Armed Forces vessels, the Administrator and the Secretary have determined that it is reasonable and practicable to require use of a Marine Pollution Control Device for at least one class of vessel to mitigate adverse impacts on the marine environment:

(a) Aqueous Film-Forming Foam: the firefighting foam and seawater mixture discharged during training, testing, or maintenance operations.

(b) Catapult Water Brake Tank & Post-Launch Retraction Exhaust: the oily water skimmed from the water tank used to stop the forward motion of an aircraft carrier catapult, and the condensed steam discharged when the catapult is retracted.

(c) Chain Locker Effluent: the accumulated precipitation and seawater that is emptied from the compartment used to store the vessel's anchor chain.

(d) Clean Ballast: the seawater taken into, and discharged from, dedicated ballast tanks to maintain the stability of the vessel and to adjust the buoyancy of submarines.

(e) Compensated Fuel Ballast: the seawater taken into, and discharged from, ballast tanks designed to hold both ballast water and fuel to maintain the stability of the vessel.

(f) Controllable Pitch Propeller Hydraulic Fluid: the hydraulic fluid that discharges into the surrounding seawater from propeller seals as part of normal operation, and the hydraulic fluid released during routine maintenance of the propellers.