

**§ 151.67 Operating requirements: Discharge of plastic prohibited.**

No person on board any ship may discharge into the sea, or into the navigable waters of the United States, plastic or garbage mixed with plastic, including, but not limited to, synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, and plastic garbage bags. All garbage containing plastics requiring disposal must be discharged ashore or incinerated.

[CGD 88-002, 54 FR 18405, Apr. 28, 1989, as amended by CGD 88-002A, 55 FR 18583, May 2, 1990]

**§ 151.69 Operating requirements: Discharge of garbage outside special areas.**

(a) When operating outside of a special area specified in § 151.53, no person may discharge, into the sea, garbage that is separated from plastic, if the distance from nearest land is less than—

(1) 25 nautical miles for dunnage, lining and packing materials that float; or

(2) 12 nautical miles for victual wastes and all other garbage including paper products, rags, glass, metal, bottles, crockery and similar refuse, except that, such garbage may be discharged outside of three nautical miles from nearest land after it has been passed through a grinder or comminuter specified in § 151.75.

(b) Mixtures of garbage having different discharge requirements under paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section must be—

(1) Retained on board for later disposal ashore; or

(2) Discharged in accordance with the more stringent requirement prescribed by paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section.

**§ 151.71 Operating requirements: Discharge of garbage within special areas.**

(a) When a ship is located in a special area referenced in § 151.53 of this part, no person may discharge garbage from the ship, except as allowed in paragraph (b) or (c) in this section.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, disposal into the sea of victual waste must be made as far as

practicable from land but, in any case, not less than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land.

(c) Disposal into the Wider Caribbean region of victual wastes which have been passed through a comminuter or grinder shall be made as far as practicable from land but, in any case, not less than 3 nautical miles from the nearest land. Such comminuted or ground food wastes shall be capable of passing through a screen with opening no greater than 25 millimeters.

[CGD 94-056, 60 FR 43378, Aug. 21, 1995]

**§ 151.73 Operating requirements: Discharge of garbage from fixed or floating platforms.**

(a) Except as allowed in paragraph (b) of this section, no person may discharge garbage from—

(1) A fixed or floating platform engaged in the exploration, exploitation or associated offshore processing of seabed mineral resources; or

(2) Any ship within 500 meters (1650 feet) of such platforms.

(b) Victual waste may be discharged into the sea from a ship or fixed or floating platform regulated by paragraph (a) of this section if—

(1) It passes through a comminuter or grinder meeting § 151.75; and

(2) That ship or fixed or floating platform is beyond 12 nautical miles from nearest land.

**§ 151.75 Grinders or comminuters.**

Each grinder or comminuter used to discharge garbage in accordance with § 151.69(a)(2) or § 151.73(b)(1), must be capable of processing garbage so that it passes through a screen with openings no greater than 25 millimeters (one inch).

**§ 151.77 Exceptions for emergencies.**

Sections 151.67, 151.69 and 151.71 do not apply to the following:

(a) Discharges of garbage from a ship for the purpose of securing the safety of the ship and those on board or saving life at sea.

(b) The escape of garbage resulting from damage to a ship or its equipment, if all reasonable precautions have been taken before and after the occurrence of the damage, to prevent or minimize the escape.