

INTERNATIONAL POLLUTION REGULATIONS
MARPOL CONVENTION ANNEX V
DISCHARGE OF GARBAGE INTO THE SEA IS
PROHIBITED

Comminuted or ground food waste with particle size no greater than 25mm can be discharged into the sea from a fixed or floating platform*, and all other ships when alongside or within 500m of such platforms, when located more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land**

Discharge of all other garbage into the sea is prohibited.

All other garbage should be retained on board for discharge at port reception facilities or other services.

Garbage can be incinerated in equipment complying with MARPOL Annexes V and VI.

All discharges into the sea or to a reception facility, or a completed incineration, must be recorded in the Garbage Record Book.

All procedures for handling garbage must be in accordance with the Garbage Management Plan.

Note: Cooking oil is not considered food waste and cannot be discharged into the sea.

Violation of these requirements may result in penalties.

*Fixed or floating platform means fixed or floating structures located at sea which are engaged in the exploration, exploitation or associated offshore processing of sea-bed mineral resources.

**Nearest land is determined by the territorial sea baselines. These baselines are often established around islands and reefs and across the mouth of rivers that flow directly into the sea. Prior to discharge the territorial sea baseline should be known for the area where the platform is operating. Information on 'nearest land' related to the Great Barrier Reef can be found in MARPOL Annex V and guidelines.

REPORTING ILLEGAL GARBAGE DISCHARGE

Keep our seas clean by reporting any violation of the garbage discharge regulations.

Information is needed to assist in investigating and prosecuting offenders. Useful information includes:

- the **name** of the vessel responsible;
- the **time, date and location** of the incident (distance from land, GPS coordinates);
- details of **how much and what type of garbage** was discharged
- other **witnesses** or vessels in the vicinity.

If possible take photographs or video images of the pollution, the vessel or person involved.

Please REPORT illegal garbage discharges to:

Rescue Coordination Centre (Australia)

Phone: 1800 641 792 (freecall) or (02) 6230 6811

at any time

or

Marine Environment Standards

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

GPO Box 2181 Canberra City ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 62795610

Email: eps@amsa.gov.au

Please keep this information card on board your platform.

MARPOL requires that all fixed or floating platforms display a placard that notifies the crew and passengers of the garbage discharge regulations.