

## **Oily Water Discharge and Naval Vessels**

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Naval vessels must comply with local and international regulations and must also address specific issues related to their specialized functions. These are two vastly different areas. In regards to compliance with international and local discharge regulations, military vessels are struggling with the same issues and to the same extent as the commercial maritime sector. Specifically, it appears that compliance to MEPC107(49) is difficult for all types of vessels due to shortcomings in understanding the nature of discharge. As such, ships are currently not designed and technology does not exist to be able to easily comply with 107(49) and to monitor accurately.

Military vessels are currently working on solving these problems. The issues and approaches are very similar to what is happening in the commercial sector. Additionally, military vessels have specific problems. Some examples are: discharge of visible sheen from smaller vessels intended for combat operations, oily water contamination of steam catapult and water break systems on aircraft carriers, discharge from scupper troughs due to cleaning operations on a variety of vessels, and compliance for small vessels, army and navy, which greatly outnumber the larger vessels and are not big enough to have oily water separators (OWS). This paper will elucidate the issues and problems associated with the above and review counter measures.