

## Cargo hold cleaning / MARPOL MEPC 63 Annex V

*Nowadays, cargo hold cleaners have to be in accordance with amendment MARPOL / IMO rules*

Number: 2013/02



### Introduction

Cleaning bulk cargos is one of the major issues on board vessels. It involves not only masters' and ships' crew but also office-operation managers and in some cases even external specialists.

Preparation for loading new cargo requires a very important cleaning procedure. Especially today where cargos like coal, pet coke, cement, iron and bauxite are in high demand. Coal demand is rising from 923.8 million Tons in 2007 to 1032.8 million Tons in 2015 and it is estimated to reach 1208 million Tons by 2030. The same values, but not at such high rates, we see in the rest of the cargos mentioned above and the demand from countries like China, Japan, South Korea, India and even Germany is increasing.



IMO has been through the cleaning procedures and is controlling the cleaning agents used for cargos as mentioned above, adding the new rules to Annex: Operational wastes and garbage. All the new regulations are to be found in the

MARPOL resolution 63/23 ANNEX 24 - MEPC 219 and has been adopted on March 2 2012.

Cleaning agents used should not be harmful to the marine environment and must not contain any components which are known as Carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic (CMR). Under these circumstances, discharge into the sea is allowed and the environment is protected.

Records should be kept on board of all cleaning agents been used with the evidence that products are as per Marpol regulations.

Vecom Marine has a number of products which are matching MARPOL rules (these products can be found on [www.vecom-marine.com](http://www.vecom-marine.com). See the hyperlinks at the end of this TB). All cleaning agents within the Vecom Marine program have been evaluated by IMO at their Tank Cleaning Meetings. The same approvals been granted are also valid for cargo hold cleaning agents. A list of IMO approved products is available at web site [www.vecom-marine.com](http://www.vecom-marine.com). See the hyperlinks at the end of this TB.

Cleaning procedures have different standards depending on previous and next cargos, as well as local regulations and specific cargo interest requirements.

Cleaning coal and pet coke should be done in a specific way to avoid cargo deposits which will result in blisters and peel of the coating when the hold starts to sweat.

Vecom combines a package of cleaning agents and equipment as well as technical advice. This is essential to assure the right results as per owners and charterers expectations.

It is also important that the cleaning of previous cargos, especially when new loading is food related cargo ie: grain, is according to requirements in order to be accepted by charterers. Vecom Marine has a range of products which are tested and approved by NSF. See the hyperlinks at the end of this TB.

Different grades of hold cleanness are requested depending on cargos. The most common ones are mentioned below (starting with the most intensive one):

- Hospital clean or Stringent cleanliness
- Grain clean or High cleanliness
- Normal clean
- Shovel clean
- Load On top



Wrong cleaning agents used could result in discoloration of coating, rust and corrosion problems, as well as rejection of cargo holds which is translated in serious losses. Vecom Marine has been in the market since 1953 as a specialist in tank and cargo hold cleaning. At the same time Vecom has expanded the products range with new products covering all needs of shipping and industry.

Assisting the cleaning process, Vecom Marine is proposing to ship owners the new Barrier coating which protects and also speeds up the cleaning process. The product is called Vecom Barrier Coat, or Unicoat Barrier and is available at all major ports. See the hyperlinks at the end of this TB.

The product should be sprayed before loading and does not let the cargo penetrate into the surface of the holds, providing the protection needed and at the same time does not harm the cargo. It is environmentally friendly and 100% biodegradable product.

Using the Vecom complete Cargo Hold cleaning package, you get:

- the right and approved cleaning agents
- the equipment needed for cleaning
- the barrier to protect and speed up the cleaning process,
- the technical cleaning advise

The products are available worldwide and for any questions please contact your nearest Vecom office or representative.

Vecom Marine is still working on R&D for new Enviro products to meet today's requirements and also to meet our slogan *Clean Ships, Clean Seas*.

For any questions please contact your nearest Vecom office or contact: [sales@vecom-marine.com](mailto:sales@vecom-marine.com)

You are invited to visit our website to see these products anytime. [www.vecom-marine.com](http://www.vecom-marine.com)

Author: J. (Iason) Georgiou (Director Vecom Marine Alliance)  
Reactions and/or questions?: e-mail: [tb@vecom.nl](mailto:tb@vecom.nl)  
[www.vecom-group.com](http://www.vecom-group.com)

**Sources / Links:**

1. Products which are matching MARPOL rules
2. List of IMO approved products
3. List of NSF approved products
4. Vecom Barrier Coat

