

Subject:

A pump used both for an oily water separator and sludge transfer

**ClassIBS**  
ISTHMUS BUREAU OF SHIPPING

## ***Technical Notice***

No. TN-032  
Date 26 March 2012

To whom it may concern

Recently, several ships have been detained under port state control (PSC) inspections due to dirty condition of an oily water separator for non conformity with the requirements of MARPOL Annex I. The dirty condition of the oily water separator was caused by the bilge pump which was in common used as a sludge pump for sludge transfer. The common use of the pump is acceptable for ships whose keel were laid before 31 December 1990, but it should be kept always in clean condition through careful maintenance.

Therefore, we would like to recommend you to keep the oily water separators clean giving the following instructions to your masters and chief engineers in order to avoid unnecessary trouble, even detention at PSC.

1. Sludge in sludge tanks should not be discharge through an oily water separator.
2. After a bilge pump has been used for sludge transfer from sludge tanks, the pump and piping lines should be cleaned up prior to operation of the oily water separator.
3. The chief engineer or the engineer in charge should supervise sludge and bilge control on the spot.
4. An oily water separator should be maintained in good condition according to the maintenance program.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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For Site Surveyor Office use only:

I confirm that I have received, read &  
understood this Technical Notice (TN-032)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

For Site Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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