

MARPOL ANNEX V – GARBAGE POLLUTION

SIMPLIFIED OVERVIEW OF THE REQUIREMENTS



TYPE OF GARBAGE	SHIPS OUTSIDE SPECIAL AREAS ¹	SHIPS WITHIN SPECIAL AREAS ¹	OFFSHORE PLATFORMS ⁴	
Food waste	comminuted or ground ²	DISCHARGE PERMITTED ≥ 3nm, en route and as far as practicable	DISCHARGE PERMITTED ≥ 12nm, en route and as far as practicable ³	DISCHARGE PERMITTED
	not comminuted or ground	DISCHARGE PERMITTED ≥ 12nm, en route and as far as practicable	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED
Cargo residues ^{5,6}	not contained in washwater	DISCHARGE PERMITTED ≥ 12nm, en route and as far as practicable	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED
	contained in washwater		DISCHARGE ONLY PERMITTED IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES ≥ 12nm, en route and as far as practicable (subject to conditions in regulations 6.1.2 and paragraph 5.2.1.5 of part II-A of the Polar Code)	
Cleaning agents and additives ⁶	contained in cargo hold washwater	DISCHARGE PERMITTED	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED
	in deck and external surfaces wash water		DISCHARGE PERMITTED	
Carcasses of animals carried on board as cargo and which died during the voyage	DISCHARGE PERMITTED En route and as far as practicable Should be >100nm and maximum water depth	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED	
All other garbage including plastics, domestic wastes, cooking oil, incinerator ashes, operational wastes and fishing gear	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED	DISCHARGE PROHIBITED	
Mixed garbage	When garbage is mixed with or contaminated by other substances prohibited from discharge or having different discharge requirements, the more stringent requirements apply.			

1. Special area means a sea area where for recognized technical reasons in relation to its oceanographic and ecological condition and to the particular character of its traffic the adoption of special mandatory methods for the prevention of sea pollution by garbage is required, and for the purposes of MARPOL Annex V they are the Mediterranean Sea area, the Baltic Sea area, the Black Sea area, the Red Sea area, the Gulfs area, the North Sea area, the Antarctic area and the Wider Caribbean Region (see MARPOL Annex V for the geographical definitions of each area).
2. Comminuted or ground food wastes must be able to pass through a screen with mesh no larger than 25 mm.
3. The discharge of introduced avian products in the Antarctic area is not permitted unless incinerated, autoclaved or otherwise treated to be made sterile. In polar waters, discharge shall be made as far as practicable from areas of ice concentration exceeding 1/10; in any case food wastes shall not be discharged onto the ice.
4. Offshore platforms located 12 nm from nearest land and associated ships include all fixed or floating platforms engaged in exploration or exploitation or associated processing of seabed mineral resources, and all ships alongside or within 500 m of such platforms.
5. Cargo residues means only those cargo residues that cannot be recovered using commonly available methods for unloading.
6. These substances must not be harmful to the marine environment.

Disclaimer: this simplified overview is for information purposes only, and is not meant as a substitute for the comprehensive provisions in MARPOL Annex V.