

Subject: “Sewage treatment plant found malfunctioning due to clogged return line” - Important PSC Issue!

Case: It has been recently reported that a cargo vessel faced difficulties in China when Port State Control Officers boarded the vessel for a detailed PSC inspection. Amongst other findings, the PSC Officers during the inspection, asked the Chief Engineer to demonstrate the operation of the sewage treatment plant. Unfortunately, the inspectors observed that the system was inoperative due to a blockage in a pump connection of the plant.

As a result, the following deficiency was imposed:

“Sewage treatment plant found malfunctioning due to clogged return line”

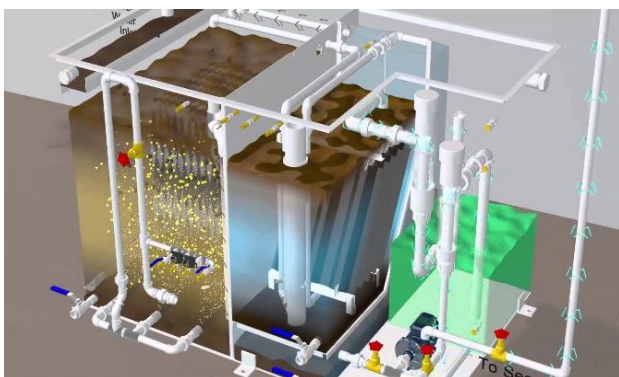
In connection to the above, and in order to assist our Clients to avoid similar complications in the future, we would like to remind them of the *MARPOL Annex IV Chapter 5, Reg. 13, § 1 and § 2* requirements pursuant to the above case:

“§1 A ship when in a port or an offshore terminal of another Party is subject to inspection by officers duly authorized by such Party concerning operational requirement under this Annex, where there are clear grounds for believing that the master or crew are not familiar with essential shipboard procedures relating to the prevention of pollution by sewage.”

“§2 In the circumstances given in paragraph 1 of this regulation, the Party shall take such steps as will ensure that the ship shall not sail until the situation has been brought to order in accordance with the requirements of this Annex.”

Referring to the above mentioned regulation and in order to assist further, *“Prevention at Sea”* recommends the following items to be considered in relation to the proper operation and maintenance of the sewage treatment plant:

- ❖ The sewage treatment plant Manufacturer’s Manual, describing the operational and maintenance procedures of the plant, including safety information about the chemicals and other materials actually utilized in the operation and clean-up of the plant, should be available on board at all times. It is also suggested that the above also becomes Part of the Company’s PMS.



- ❖ The Engine Crew should be familiar with the sewage treatment plant operation and cleaning procedures.
- ❖ Any malfunction or non-compliance (e.g. broken or missing equipment etc.) should be reported immediately to the vessel's Flag Administration and a Letter of Extension to be issued, in order to avoid unpleasant delays from Port State Control Officers.
- ❖ For Vessels calling U.S Ports, it should be noted that reference to sewage is also made to the *2013 VGP Parts. 1.2.2.25 & 1.2.3.2.*

In order to assist our clients further, we offer through our “PaSea Risk Assessment Program” the service of assessing onboard or remotely, through our “Distance Assessment”, whether the vessel is in conformance with the PSC requirements by calculating the Ship’s “PaSea” Factor.

We remain at your disposal for more details,

Prevention at Sea

