

MEMBER ALERT

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NEW RULES FOR TANKERS CALLING AT PORTS IN INDIA

The Club has recently been informed that the Ministry of Shipping of India is implementing new rules for tankers calling at Indian ports that take effect **April 1, 2004**. This action has been taken as the result of concerns regarding the possible environmental hazard from sub-standard, foreign-flagged oil tankers calling at Indian ports. Therefore, requirements have been established for chartered oil tankers and product tankers and will affect:

1. foreign and Indian-flagged tankers engaged in international voyages;
2. *crude oil tankers* (as defined by Regulation 1(29) of Annex I to MARPOL 73/78) and *product tankers* (as defined by Regulation 1(30) of Annex I to MARPOL 73/78);
3. oil tankers engaged in carrying oil other than crude oil; and
4. gas carriers and dedicated chemical carriers are not included.

The following minimum requirements need to be adhered to by charterers and oil terminal operators while chartering of foreign-flagged oil tankers:

- (i) crude oil tankers with *segregated ballast tanks in protected locations* (SBT/PL) will be below 25 years of age;
- (ii) all product tankers with SBT/PL will be below 25 years of age;
- (iii) all such tankers must be classed either as a full member of the International Association of Classification Society (IACS) or Indian Register of Shipping (IRS);
- (iv) all oil tankers above 20 years of age must have at least CAP 2 rating (for hull, machinery and cargo equipment) either as a full member of the International Association of Classification Society (IACS) or Indian Register of Shipping (IRS); and
- (v) tanker charterers and oil terminals shall exercise due diligence in ensuring the quality of chartered tankers.

These requirements will apply to all such categories of tankers mentioned above and any such tanker not in compliance will not be permitted to enter Indian ports or offshore installations, or anchor in areas under the jurisdiction of the Indian port authorities.

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