

IMPROVING SHIP WASTE MANAGEMENT IN PORTS

Challenge

Illegal ship waste discharges into the ocean negatively impact the marine environment, fishing and the tourism industry. Port reception facilities or other collection systems at a port need to be in place so that ships can deliver their waste instead of dumping it into the sea. Collected in ports, the waste can be managed properly and merged into municipal waste streams.

International regulations for sustainable ship waste collection

Internationally, the IMO Convention on Marine Pollution (MARPOL) regulates the maritime traffic regarding the management of ship-generated waste and cargo residues. It provides recommendations to ports on how to ensure the sustainable collection of such waste. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has no legal enforcement power, but ratifying countries shall transpose MARPOL provisions into their national legislation.

In Europe, increasing volumes of ship waste have been delivered to ports after the implementation of the EU Directive on Port Reception Facilities in 2000.

Success factors to increase waste delivery

Based on European experiences, the following success factors can increase the volume of ship waste delivered to ports

Clear responsibilities and roles of the stakeholders involved

A mandatory online waste notification: All ships must notify the waste type and volume to be discharged at the port before arrival. Preferably, this can be linked to a "notification of arrival" IT system.



An incentivizing cost recovery system to deliver waste: This can include the introduction of indirect waste fees. Ships then pay fees regardless of if they deliver waste or not.



An operational Ship Waste Management Manual or Port Waste Management Plan: It provides information on all aspects of ship waste management, for example the procedures, cost recovery, prices, notification requirements or list of contacts



7 steps towards an efficient Ship Waste Management System:

- 1 Analyse and assess the existing system
- 2 Develop a port strategy
- 3 Design and implement a mandatory online waste notification system
- 4 Develop a cost recovery system
- 5 Establish a ship waste handling organisation in the port
- 6 Prepare or update the operational Ship Waste Management Manual
- 7 Implement and follow up on the handling