

TRANSPORT CANADA OFFICE OF BOATING SAFETY PACIFIC  
PLEASURE CRAFT COURTESY CHECK BULLETIN

Bulletin 06-07 Oct 30,2007

**Sewage Discharges (Pleasure Craft)**

This Transport Canada (TC), Office of Boating Safety Pacific PCCC bulletin is issued under the authority of the Regional Manager Boating Safety, Transport Canada in order to provide clarity and direction to PCCC checkers. The information in this bulletin provides additional and updated information to the TC PCCC manual. **Any questions or enquires concerning this bulletin or any other particulars of the TC PCCC program are to be directed to Boating Safety Officer Mike Mitchell, Officer Primary Interest Transport Canada Pleasure Craft Courtesy Check Program. <mailto:mitchem@tc.gc.ca> (250-363-0099)**

**Introduction:**

The Pleasure Craft Sewage Prevention Regulations have been repealed and replaced by subdivision 4, of The Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and for Dangerous Chemicals Act.

This bulletin is an amendment to the PCCC manual March 2004, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Please, remove or cross out the 'The Pleasure Craft Sewage Prevention Regulations' section and insert this bulletin.

*Reference to the Regulations in this bulletin are not complete, this information has been edited and modified for the purposes of the bulletin, only some of the provisions related to pleasure craft have been included in this bulletin.*

The complete text of the regulations can be found at the following Internet link: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/acts-regulations/GENERAL/C/csa/regulations/400/csa450/csa450.html#p2d4-sewage>

**1. Interpretations:**

- a. Sewage; Sewage means human body wastes and wastes from other living animals. Drainage and other wastes from toilets and other receptacles intended to receive or retain human body wastes.
- b. Holding tank; means a tank that is used solely for the collection and storage of sewage or sewage sludge and includes a tank that is an integral part of a toilet.
- c. Inland waters of Canada; means all the rivers, lakes and other navigable fresh waters within Canada.

**2. Application**

- a. Unless otherwise specified the regulations apply to Canadian ships anywhere and

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a ship that is not Canadian in waters under Canadian jurisdiction.

b. The pleasure craft compliance requirements pertaining to the regulation are referenced as *a ship that is less than 400 tons gross tonnage and is not certified to carry more than 15 persons unless otherwise noted.*

## **3. Equipment — Marine Sanitation Devices, Holding Tanks and Facilities for Temporary Storage**

- A ship in Section I or Section II waters that has a toilet facility shall be fitted with a marine sanitation device or a holding tank.
- If a ship that has been fitted with a marine sanitation device operates in an area where the discharge of sewage from the marine sanitation device is not authorized under section 129 of the regulations, the ship shall be fitted with facilities for the temporary storage of sewage.
- A ship that is less than 15 tons gross tonnage, is certified to carry 15 persons or less and is not operating in inland waters of Canada or designated sewage areas may be fitted with facilities for the temporary storage of sewage if it is not practicable for the ship to comply with the requirements of a fitted holding tank. The ship must have measures in place to ensure that no discharge is made except in accordance with section 129 of the regulations.

## **4. Fitting of Toilets**

A toilet fitted on a ship shall be secured in a manner that ensures its safe operation in any environmental conditions liable to be encountered.

## **5. Standard Discharge Connections**

A ship shall be fitted with a standard discharge connection that meets the requirements of regulation 10 of Annex IV to the Pollution Convention.

## **6. Transfer Conduits**

A transfer conduit shall be used, maintained and secured in a manner that ensures its safe operation.

## **7. Marine Sanitation Devices**

Depending upon the type, a marine sanitation device shall meet the requirements of (a) a sewage treatment plant referred to in Annex IV to the Pollution Convention; code of Federal Regulations of the United States, annex IV of the pollution Convention. A MSD approved under the Great Lakes Sewage Pollution Prevention Regulations.

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**8. Documents Kept on Board**

A ship that is fitted with a marine sanitation device shall keep on board a certificate of type approval.

**9. Designated sewage areas**

A designated sewage area is an area where the discharge of raw sewage is prohibited. Only sewage that has been treated by an approved MSD with an effluent that has a fecal coliform count that is equal to or less than 14/100 mL may be discharge in a designated sewage area.

**Schedule 4 Designated Sewage Areas for BC**

Item	Name and Location Reference of Body of Water ( <i>Gazetteer of Canada</i> reference system)
<i>British Columbia</i>	
1.	Shuswap Lake (50°56'N, 119°17'W), north of Salmon Arm
2.	Mara Lake (50°47'N, 119°00'W), east of Salmon Arm
3.	Okanagan Lake (49°45'N, 119°44'W), west of Kelowna
4.	Christina Lake (49°07'N, 118°15'W), east of Grand Forks
5.	Horsefly Lake (52°23'N, 121°10'W), east of Horsefly
6.	Kalamalka Lake (50°10'N, 119°21'W), south of Vernon
7.	Pilot Bay (49°38'20"N, 116°52'15"W), Kootenay Lake east of Nelson
8.	Stuart Lake (54°36'N, 124°40'W), northwest of Fort St. James. Portion of the lake south of Jennie Chow Island (District Lot 7114, Coast Land District), including a three-kilometer buffer from the mouth of the Tachie River
9.	Carrington Bay (50°09'N, 125°00'W), on the northwest coast of Cortes Island, in the Strait of Georgia. All water east of a line extending from the southern point of land to the northern point of land at the mouth of Carrington Bay, including Carrington lagoon
10.	Cortes Bay (50°04'N, 124°55'W), on the east coast of Cortes Island, in the Strait of Georgia. All water west of a line drawn across the narrowest point of the harbour entrance
11.	Manson's Landing and Gorge Harbour (50°04'N, 124°59'W), on the southwest coast of Cortes Island, in the Strait of Georgia. All water east of a line extending from the southern boundary of Manson's Landing Provincial Park to the western headland defining the entrance to Gorge Harbour, including Manson's Landing Provincial Marine Park, Deadman Island and Gorge Harbour
12.	Montague Harbour (48°53'N, 123°24'W), on the southwest coast of Galiano Island, in the Strait of Georgia. Northern approach: all water south of a line southeast from Ballingall Islet to Galiano Island and east of a line from

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	Ballingall Islet to Wilmot Head on Parker Island. Western approach: all water east of a line connecting Parker Island to Philmore Point on Galiano Island, including Julia Island. Montague Harbour includes Montague Harbour Marine Provincial Park
13.	Pilot Bay (49°12'N, 123°51'W), Gabriola Island, on the north coast of Gabriola Island, in the Strait of Georgia, east of Nanaimo. All water south of a line extending east from Tinson Point to the main shoreline of Gabriola Island, including the marine area within Gabriola Sands Provincial Park
14.	Prideaux Haven (50°09'N, 124°41'W), in Desolation Sound, northeast of Lund. All marine waters in the area within the following boundaries: from a point located at a bearing of 263° and a distance of 2,080 m from the southwest corner of District Lot 4354, Group One, New Westminster District, along a line drawn directly north at a distance of 350 m to the southeasterly shores of Eveleigh Island, thence along the said southeasterly shores to the most easterly point of said Island, at Lucy Point, thence on a bearing of 77° and a distance of 1,180 m to Coplestone Point, thence along the shores of Laura Cove, Melanie Cove, the southeasterly shores of Prideaux Haven and Eveleigh Anchorage to the point of commencement
15.	Roscoe Bay (50°10'N, 124°46'W). All marine waters of a bay on the east side of West Redonda Island, including all water west of a line drawn due north from Marylebone Point to the opposite shore on West Redonda Island
16.	Smuggler Cove (49°31'N, 123°58'W). The cove lies to the southwest of Secret Cove. All marine water east of a line drawn from the westernmost point of Isle Capri to the westernmost point of Wibraham Point enclosed within the boundaries of Smuggler Cove Marine Park
17.	Squirrel Cove (50°08'N, 124°55'W), on the east coast of Cortes Island, in the Strait of Georgia. All water in the basin northwest of Protection Island

**10. General provisions**

- Pleasure craft with a toilet facility must have a means of storing the sewage or an approved marine sanitization device (MSD), which treats the sewage.
- There is a 5-year phase in period for pleasure craft, which are not compliant prior to the regulations coming into force.
- Pleasure craft manufactured after the date in which the regulations came into force must comply.

**11. Discharging of treated or untreated sewage in tidal waters.**

- Sewage that has been treated by an approved MSD with an effluent that has a fecal coliform count that is equal to or less than 250/100 mL may be generally discharged not less than one nautical mile from shore.

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- Untreated sewage may be discharged not less than three nautical miles from shore. \*
- If it is not practicable to comply with the three nautical mile requirement because the ship is located in waters that are less than 6 nautical miles from shore to shore, the discharge can be made while the ship is en route at a speed of at least 4 knots or, if it is not practicable at that speed, at the fastest practicable speed\*
  - (a) Into the deepest waters that are located the farthest from shore during an ebb tide, or \*
  - (b) Into the deepest and fastest moving waters that are located the farthest from shore. \*

**\* Prohibition-The discharge of sewage is not authorized:**

- If a reception facility is available to receive the sewage. (Raw sewage).
- Treated sewage closer than 1 nautical mile. (See requirements for schedule four waters.)
- Untreated sewage closer than 3 nautical miles. (See exceptions in section 2)
- Causes a film or sheen to develop on or cause a discoloration of the water or its adjoining shorelines.
- Causes sewage sludge or an emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon its adjoining shorelines
- If the sewage contains any visible solids.

**12. Discharging of treated sewage in inland waters.**

- Only sewage that has been treated by an approved MSD with an effluent that has a fecal coliform count that is equal to or less than 250/100 mL may be discharged.\*\*
- Only sewage that has been treated by an approved MSD with an effluent that has a fecal coliform count that is equal to or less than 14/100 mL may be discharge in a designated sewage area listed in schedule 4 waters. \*\*

**\*\*Prohibition-The discharge of sewage is not authorized:**

- Discharging of untreated sewage is prohibited in inland waters.
- Causes a film or sheen to develop on or cause a discoloration of the water or its adjoining shorelines.
- Causes sewage sludge or an emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon its adjoining shorelines
- If the sewage contains any visible solids.

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**13. Discharge of treated sewage in schedule 4 waters.**

- Only sewage that has been treated by an approved MSD with an effluent that has a fecal coliform count that is equal to or less than 14/100 mL may be discharged in a designated sewage area found in schedule 4.

***Prohibition-The discharge of sewage is not authorized:***

- Discharging of untreated sewage is prohibited in schedule 4 waters.
- If the approved MSD does not meet the requirements of a fecal coliform count that is equal to or less than 14/100 mL.
- Causes a film or sheen to develop on or cause a discoloration of the water or its adjoining shorelines.
- Causes sewage sludge or an emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon its adjoining shorelines
- If the sewage contains any visible solids.

**14. Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD)**

a. Marine Sanitation Device - (MSD) Type I

- This system breaks up the sewage and disinfects it with chemicals, then discharges the treated sewage overboard. Note: there, are growing concerns about the environmental effects of the chemicals used in these devices.

b. Marine Sanitation Device - (MSD) Type II

- This is a more sophisticated and more expensive system than Type 1. It treats the raw sewage to a higher degree through maceration and biological decomposition.

c. Marine Sanitation Device - (MSD) Type III

- This is a system with a holding tank that can store untreated sewage until you can dispose of it properly at a pump-out station. It is acceptable to add deodorizers.

- d. It is a requirement that any MSD being used for the purposes of sewage treatment as required by the regulations be approved and meet the required performance specifications. The boater must have a 'certificate of type approval' documentation on board.

**15. Exceptions to the discharge provisions**

- (a) When a discharge is necessary for the purpose of saving lives, securing the safety of a ship or preventing the immediate loss of a ship.

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(b) When a discharge occurs as a result of an accident of navigation in which a ship or its equipment is damaged, unless the accident occurs as a result of an action that is outside the ordinary practice of a seaman.

**16. Check criteria:**

- Pleasure craft with a toilet facility, which were built prior to these regulations coming into force, are subject to a 5-year phase in period (tidal waters) in order to comply with these regulations unless they are within a 'designated sewage area' as listed in schedule 4. (Must comply immediately).
- A holding tank may be an integral part of a toilet i.e. Port a Potty type.
- If a permanent holding tank is not practical for a pleasure craft less than 15 tons gross tonnage, a temporary means of storage, which complies with the regulations, is acceptable.
- A toilet fitted on a ship shall be secured in a manner that ensures its safe operation in any environmental conditions likely to be encountered.
- Pleasure craft, which are checked or operate on inland waters or a designated sewage area are not authorized to dump raw sewage. The sewage must be kept in a holding tank, or temporary means of storage, which meet the requirements of the regulations (Less than 15 ton gross tonnage) and discharged at a pump out station unless it has been processed through a approved marine sanitation device (MSD).
- If the vessel is fitted with a MSD there must be a certificate of approval documentation confirming that the device meets the regulatory requirements and the effluent has a fecal coliform count that is equal to or less than 250/100 mL. The requirement is equal or less than 14/100 mL for discharge in a designated sewage area. It is unlikely that a small pleasure craft will have a marine sanitation device due to the system size and cost.
- A fitted holding tank shall
  - (a) be constructed in a manner such that it does not compromise the integrity of the hull;
  - (b) be constructed of structurally sound material that prevents the tank contents from leaking;
  - (c) be constructed such that the potable water system or other systems cannot become contaminated;
  - (d) be resistant to corrosion by sewage;
  - (e) have an adequate volume for the ship's human-rated capacity on a normal voyage;
  - (f) be provided with a discharge connection and piping system for the removal of the tank contents at a sewage reception facility;
  - (g) be designed so that the level of sewage in the tank may be determined without the tank being opened and without contacting or removing any of the tank contents or be equipped with a device that allows the determination to be made;