



BAN ON USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS ONBOARD SHIPS

INDIA / KUWAIT



Kuwait

On 28 November 2019, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Communications issued Circular No. 08/2019 announcing its policy to prohibit the use of certain single-use plastic items onboard Kuwaiti and foreign ships while in port in Kuwait or in Kuwaiti waters. Banned items are as follows:

- cutlery, plates and cups
- bottles up to 10 liters for water and other drinks
- garbage and shopping bags
- dispensing containers for cleaning fluids that are less than 10 liters in volume
- bags, trays, containers, food packaging film;
- milk bottles, freezer bags, shampoo bottles, ice cream containers;
- bottles for water and other drinks, dispensing containers for cleaning fluids, biscuit trays;
- hot drink cups, insulated food packaging, protective packaging for fragile items; and
- microwave dishes, ice cream tubs, potato chip bags, bottle caps.

The new rule prohibits all foreign flagged ships from using any such item while operating in Kuwaiti waters; ships must keep all their single-use plastic items locked in a store during their stay in Kuwaiti ports and during their passage through the territorial waters of Kuwait.

India

On 16 October 2019, the Indian Director General of Shipping (DGS) issued Order No.5 stating that single-use plastics (SUP) would be banned on ships in Indian waters with effect from 1 January 2020. This implementation date was subsequently postponed to allow more time for the industry to prepare.

The DGS subsequently published Addendum No 1 of 2020 on 8 January 2020, to clarify the implementation requirements. The addendum defines SUP as “disposable plastics which are used only once and then thrown away by the user” and excludes cargo-related items and packaging. Waste reception facilities will continue to be provided for disposal of SUP, which should be kept segregated and marked for disposal.

A **Ship Execution Plan (SEP)**, defined as a ship-specific inventory indicating all SUP used onboard, will be required by 31 January 2020 for Indian and foreign flagged cargo ships and 31 March 2020 for Indian and foreign flagged passenger ships, visiting an Indian port.

Recommendations

In order to document compliance during Port State Control, foreign flagged ships intending to enter a port in India or Kuwait will be required to make a log entry / inventory list identifying all single-use plastic items available onboard the ship, and have them stored appropriately.

Both governments state that no detention of foreign ships will be enforced on basis of the single-use plastic prohibitions when in force.

Ship Operators / Managers are therefore urged to inform their vessels as soon as possible. **Vessels intending to call at an Indian port should be provided with a Ship Execution Plan.**

AMC can assist in preparing such Plans in order to document compliance with DGS Order No.5.

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