

## MARPOL

### MARPOL Annex III – Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances in Packaged Form

MARPOL Annex III aims to prevent marine pollution caused by harmful substances that are carried in packaged form aboard ships. Unlike Annexes I and II, which deal with liquids in bulk, Annex III covers substances that are transported as cargo in packages, such as containers, drums, or tanks.

#### Scope of Application:

- Applies to all ships carrying harmful substances in packaged form.
- Also applies to port terminals and handling operations.
- Focuses on prevention through proper packaging, marking, documentation, and handling.

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#### What Are "Harmful Substances"?

A harmful substance under Annex III is:

“a substance which is identified as a marine pollutant in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code or which meets the criteria for inclusion.”

These may include:

- Toxic chemicals
- Corrosive substances
- Flammable liquids and solids
- Environmentally hazardous substances (e.g. pesticides, heavy metals)

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#### Key Requirements and Measures:

##### Packaging and Containment

- Substances must be properly packaged to prevent leaks or spills during normal transport conditions.
- Packaging must comply with standards from the IMDG Code.

##### Labeling and Marking

- Each package must be clearly marked with the proper shipping name, marine pollutant symbol, and UN number.
- Placards and hazard labels must be visible and durable.

## ■ Documentation

- A detailed cargo manifest must be carried on board, listing all harmful substances.
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) must be available for emergency reference.
- The location of harmful substances must be clearly indicated on the stowage plan.

## ⚠ Handling and Stowage

- Substances must be stowed and secured according to the IMDG Code to prevent movement or damage.
- Incompatible substances must be separated.
- Special attention is required in loading/unloading operations to avoid accidental releases.

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## Port Reception and Incident Response

While Annex III doesn't require reception facilities like Annexes I and II, it does emphasize:

- Accident prevention
- Emergency procedures in case of spills
- Notification requirements for port and environmental authorities

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## Enforcement and Compliance:

- Compliance is enforced through flag state control, port state control, and inspections.
- Violations (e.g. mislabeling, damaged packaging) can lead to fines, detentions, or legal actions.
- Ships must follow both MARPOL Annex III and the IMDG Code, which is mandatory under SOLAS.

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## ✅ Summary:

MARPOL Annex III helps protect the marine environment by ensuring that harmful substances in packages are:

- Properly packaged and labeled
- Clearly documented
- Handled with care
- Transported under strict safety guidelines

Together with the IMDG Code, it forms a critical framework for preventing accidental pollution during the global movement of hazardous goods by sea.