

Portable Damage Control Drain Pump Discharge Summary

Description of Discharge

How is this discharge generated? This discharge consists of seawater pumped through the portable damage control drain pump and discharged overboard during periodic testing, maintenance, and training activities.

Portable damage control (DC) drain pumps are used to remove water from vessel compartments during emergencies or to provide seawater for shipboard firefighting in the event water is unavailable from the firemain system. Discharges from drain pumps being used during onboard emergencies are not incidental to normal vessel operations, and therefore are not within the scope of this rule. These pumps are, however, periodically operated during maintenance, testing, and training, and pump discharges during these activities are within the scope of this rule. To demonstrate that the pumps are functioning properly, the suction hose is hung over the side of the vessel and the pump operated to verify that the pump effectively transfers the seawater or harbor water. This pump effluent is discharged directly overboard during this testing.

Which vessels generate this discharge? All large ships and selected boats and craft of the Armed Forces generate this discharge.

How often and where is this discharge generated? As part of equipment maintenance, testing, and training, the pumps are operated both within and beyond 12 n.m. from shore. Navy, Army, and MSC vessels operate portable DC drain pumps for approximately 10 minutes per month and an additional 15 minutes per year to demonstrate working order and condition. Coast Guard vessels operate their portable DC drain pumps for approximately 30 minutes per month for maintenance and testing.

Analysis

Nature of Discharge: This discharge consists of seawater/harbor water that only briefly passes through a pumping process. The drain pump discharge is unlikely to cause adverse impacts because the water has a residence time of less than five seconds in the pump and associated suction and discharge hoses, and no measurable constituents are expected to be added to the seawater/harbor water.

Discussion and Discharge Determination

Discussion: Because of the short residence time, EPA and DOD determined it is not reasonable and practicable to require the use of a MPCD to mitigate adverse impacts on the marine environment for this discharge.

Determination: A marine pollution control device is not required.