

Appendix G

Marine Sanitation Device Standards

Marine Sanitation Device Standards

Section 312 of the Clean Water Act requires the use of an operable and certified marine sanitation device (MSD) on all vessels with installed toilets operating on the navigable waters of the United States. An MSD includes any equipment for installation on board a vessel which is designed to receive, retain, treat, or discharge sewage, and any process to treat such sewage.

Section 312(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act requires EPA to promulgate Federal standards of performance for MSDs. These standards are found at 40 CFR Part 140. Section 312(g) (2) of the Clean Water Act directs the USCG to certify MSDs if they meet applicable standards and regulations. Regulations governing the design and construction requirements of MSDs and procedures for certifying that MSDs meet EPA standards are in 33 CFR Part 159.

As of January 30, 1980, a vessel with an installed toilet must be equipped with one of the following types of MSD:

- Type I MSDs
 - Flow-through devices that provide treatment of sewage; rely on a variety of different technologies for treatment prior to discharge, including maceration, chlorination, heating, filtering, or biological processing.
 - Effluent must have a fecal coliform bacterial count no greater than 1000 per 100 milliliters, and must contain no visible floating solids.
 - Can only be used on vessels 65 feet in length or less (33 CFR 159.5 and 159.7).
- Type II MSDs
 - Flow-through devices that provide treatment of sewage; rely on a variety of different technologies for treatment prior to discharge, including maceration, chlorination, heating, filtering, or biological processing.
 - Effluent must have a fecal coliform bacterial count no greater than 200 per 100 milliliters, and suspended solids no greater than 150 milligrams per liter.
 - Vessels over 65 feet in length must be equipped with a Type II or Type III MSD (33 CFR 159.5 and 159.7).
- Type III MSDs
 - Holding tanks that are designed to prevent the overboard discharge of treated or untreated sewage or any waste derived from sewage.
 - Can be installed on vessels of any size.