



Industrial Water Pollution Controls

[Recent Additions](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Print Version](#) Search: [GO](#)

[EPA Home](#) > [Water](#) > [Water Science](#) > [Industrial Water Pollution Controls](#) > [UNDS](#) > [Fact Sheet](#)

Effluent Guidelines

Cooling Water Intake Structures 316(b)

Discharge Standards for Armed Forces Vessels

Analytical Methods

Uniform National Discharge Standards (UNDS) For Armed Forces Vessels

United States Environmental Protection Agency	Office of Water 4303	EPA-821-F-99-009 April 1999
---	-------------------------	--------------------------------

Summary

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) are publishing a rule that concludes Phase I of the development of uniform national discharge standards (UNDS) to control discharges incidental to the normal operation of Armed Forces vessels. This rule requires 25 Armed Forces vessel discharges to be controlled by marine pollution control devices, and excludes 14 vessel discharges from pollution controls and regulation by State and local governments.

Background

On February 10, 1996, President Clinton signed into law an amendment to Section 312 of the Clean Water Act. It authorized EPA and DOD to jointly establish UNDS for discharges incidental to the normal operation of Armed Forces vessels. Previously, Section 312 addressed only the regulation of sewage. The Armed Forces include Navy, Military Sealift Command, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. UNDS applies to more than 7,000 Armed Forces vessels operating in inland waters or within 12 miles from the coastline of the U.S. and its territories.

Phase I Results

This regulation requires 25 Armed Forces vessel discharges to be controlled by marine pollution control devices (MPCDs), and excludes 14 vessel discharges from pollution controls and regulation by State and local governments because of their low potential for causing adverse environmental impacts. This regulation also explains the procedures for States to establish no-discharge zones, where any release of a specified discharge from Armed Forces vessels is prohibited, and to petition EPA and DOD to review determinations and standards issued under the UNDS program.

Next Steps

Identifying which vessel discharges will require control is the first phase of a three-phase process to establish UNDS. During Phase II, EPA and DOD will identify appropriate MPCDs for each discharge that requires control, and establish the MPCD performance standards. A MPCD may be equipment or a management practice. During Phase III, DOD will develop implementing regulations for the design, construction, installation, and use of MPCDs.

Benefits of UNDS

UNDS will result in enhanced environmental protection because standards will be established for certain discharges that currently are not regulated comprehensively. These standards will also advance the Armed Forces' ability to better design and build environmentally sound vessels, to train crews to operate vessels in an environmentally protective manner, and to maintain the operational flexibility of Armed Forces vessels both domestically and internationally. In addition, these standards are expected to stimulate the development of innovative vessel pollution control technologies.

Additional Information

For additional information concerning this rule, contact:

Mr. Gregory Stapleton

David F. Kopack

Office of Water
Engineering and Analysis Division
(4303T)
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 566-1028

Uniform National Discharge Standards and Shipyard ESH Program
Manager
Naval Sea Systems Command, SEA 00T
1333 Isaac Hull Avenue SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20376
202-781-4622

You may view the *Federal Register* notice and the development document that supports this rule on EPA's Website at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/guide/> or on the UNDS Internet Home Page at <http://unds.bah.com/>. EXIT Disclaimer The development document is also available from the National Center for Environmental Publications and Information, 11029 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242; telephone 1-800-490-9198; fax (513) 489-8695; email at ncepi.mail@epa.gov or by Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/orderpub.html>.