



## LOSS PREVENTION LETTER

### Sewage Water Fines - Batumi, Georgia

27 January 2010  
Georgia

Recent time by our company observed increased number of sewage water pollution cases in Georgia. In light of above we would like to inform club managers and club members to take this fact into attention to prevent losses and huge fines.

According to standard procedure the inspectors of Black Sea Conventional Pollution Inspection boarding vessels in order to carry out standard routine inspection as per various MARPOL requirements. The inspection includes checking of Garbage Management , Ballast Management, Oil Management record books and inspection of machinery spaces as well. At time of such inspections very often ascertained alleged sewage pollution facts. As per our practice all such deficiencies and as a result fines are result of improper maintenance or use of sewage treatment plant.

In case such deficiencies will be ascertained by Pollution Inspectors the sample of sewage water will be taken for the analysis in order to prove the fact that vessel discharged untreated or insufficiently treated sewage waters into the territorial waters of Georgia.

The official's procedure in case of ascertained deficiency will include:

- Sampling of sewage water from treatment plant and analysis
- Detention of vessel
- Extraction of all ship documents and related log books
- According to Georgian code of Administrative Infringements articles 39,239,240, 241 and article 58<sup>2</sup> will be imposed the fine in the amount of **65000.00 GEL** (Georgian Lari) which is currently approximately **40000 USD**. The first part of fine (65000GEL) does not relate to the quantity of spillage or it significance and will be imposed as lump sum fine only for the fact of pollution. Additionally the pollution inspectors will calculate the cost for the environmental loss and cleaning which can conclude another several thousand US dollars.
- The case will be brought to the City Court for lessening within 1-2 days (if no holidays)
- Release of vessel will be possible only after remittance of fine to state treasury account. The CLUB LOU or Bank guaranty letters not accepted by Court and the only way to release the vessel will be direct remittance of fine via agent or club Correspondent to indicated by Court state treasure account number.

According to our practice it is not possible to avoid or decrease the sum of fine even if there is spillage or discharge of only several liters of sewage waters.



### **Prevention:**

According to our statistics the most common problems are:

1. Not proper or not scheduled use of disinfection tablets (chlorine)
2. Tablets or chlorine solution not in place, not charged into the plant
3. No records in log books about the use of disinfection tablets (chlorine)
4. Dismantled sewage treatment plant
5. Planned maintenance of plant at time of staying in port and in the same time discharging untreated sewage waters into the sea

### **In order to prevent vessel detention, huge fines and minimize the risks, the following minimum actions recommended for club members:**

1. Follow the manual for sewage treatment plant maintenance
2. Include in engine department maintenance plans (software) the indicated in manuals items for periodic checking
3. Before entry to Georgian ports insure that all above mentioned steps of plant maintenance followed in accordance with manual, especially use of proper quantity and at recommended intervals chlorine tablets (or concentration of chlorine solution on some types)
4. Keep in log books the records about the use and maintenance
5. Check the water at least visually at plant treated water outlet
6. If have doubt about the functionality of plant or insufficient cleanliness better to seal the plant system and collect the sewage water at appropriate sewage holding tank (if available on board in required volume)

### **Following items recommended to the club managers, loss prevention survey department to include in vessel pre-entry risk assessment reports:**

1. To include in list of certificates and documents for checking in inspection report following class document:
  - Certificate of Compliance of Sewage Pollution Prevention
2. To include check for Sewage Treatment Plant and Sewage Holding Tank for the pre-entry condition survey.

### **What to look for (P&I correspondents / nominated surveyors):**

- a) The validity of certificates for sewage treatment plant.
- b) The availability of sufficient number of chlorine tablets on board
- c) Records or checklist confirming the maintenance
- d) In case vessel fitted with sewage holding tank - Records, procedures and crew familiarization for proper sewage discharge at sea as per latest requirements of MARPOL Annex IV – maximum discharge of untreated sewage in accordance with resolution MEPC.157(55)