

BERMUDA

**WATER RESOURCES (PREVENTION OF POLLUTION BY SEWAGE FROM
BOATS) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2025**

BR / 2025

The Minister responsible for the environment, in exercise of the power conferred by section 39 of the Water Resources Act 1975, makes the following Regulations:

Citation

1 These Regulations, which amend the Water Resources (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Boats) Regulations 2018 (“the principal Regulations”), may be cited as the Water Resources (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Boats) Amendment Regulations 2025.

Amends regulation 2

2 Regulation 2 of the principal Regulations is amended by inserting in alphabetical order, the following definitions—

“Act” means the Water Resources Act 1975;

“authorized officer” has the meaning given in section 33A(2) of the Water Resources Act 1975;

“Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre” has the meaning given in section 2 of the Marine and Ports Services Act 2021;”.

Inserts regulations 5A to 5C

3 After regulation 5 of the principal Regulations, insert the following—

“Discharge reporting requirements for certain boats

5A (1) This section applies only in relation to live-aboard boats moored in a no-discharge zone.

(2) The owner of a boat to which this section applies shall—

- (a) upon or immediately after discharging sewage into the sea, notify the Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre of such discharge, the time and location of the discharge, and the registration number

WATER RESOURCES (PREVENTION OF POLLUTION BY SEWAGE FROM BOATS) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2025

of the boat so discharging and shall make a written record of such notification;

- (b) in respect of every boat sewage pump-out, obtain a written record from the pump-out facility performing the service of: the date, time and location of the pump-out services so received;
- (c) keep records referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b), for a period of not less than three years; and
- (d) where so required, provide to an authorized officer, written records referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b).

(3) In this regulation, a “live-aboard boat” means a boat which is for the time being used as a dwelling.

Inspections

5B (1) An authorized officer may, in accordance with the Act, inspect any boat for the purposes of these Regulations and such inspection may include, but shall not be limited to, the following—

- (a) the sewerage holding tank or sewage treatment system;
- (b) any Y-valve or seacock valve;
- (c) any portable toilet or other temporary on-board sanitary facilities;
- (d) information required to be kept under regulation 5A; and
- (e) the instruction card.

(2) An authorized officer, in carrying out an inspection, may insert into the boat’s sewerage holding tank a dye-tablet for the purposes of detecting any unlawful discharge in any case including, but not limited to—

- (a) where a live-aboard boat is continually moored in a no-discharge zone;
- (b) where the owner of the boat has committed prior offences against these Regulations; or
- (c) where the authorized officer otherwise thinks it reasonable to do so.

Owner to provide information

5C Without prejudice to regulation 5A, the owner of a boat to whom Regulation 5B applies shall inform an authorized officer of—

- (a) the means by which sewage is collected on the boat;
- (b) the means by which sewage is discharged from the boat;

**WATER RESOURCES (PREVENTION OF POLLUTION BY SEWAGE FROM
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- (c) as far as reasonably practicable, the time and location of all discharges of sewage into the sea occurring within the last 24 hours.”.

Amends regulation 6

- 4 Regulation 6 of the principal Regulations is amended by deleting the words “regulations 4 and 5” and substituting the words “regulations 4 to 5C”.

Inserts regulation 6A and 6B

- 5 After regulation 6 of the principal Regulations, insert—

“Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre to log discharge notifications

6A (1) The Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre shall record all information received under regulation 5A(2)(a) and the time such information is received and shall provide a copy of the same, where requested, to an authorized officer carrying out an inspection under these Regulations.

(2) In any case where the Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre is notified of the discharge of sewage from a boat other than a boat to which regulation 5A applies, the Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre shall record all information received and the time such information is received and shall provide the same, if requested, to an authorized officer carrying out an inspection under these Regulations.

(3) The Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre shall keep all information recorded under this regulation for a period of not less than three years.

False Information an offence

6B Any person who knowingly provides false information for the purposes of these Regulations commits an offence.”.

Amends regulation 7

- 6 Regulation 7 of the principal Regulations is amended by deleting the words “fine of \$5,000” and substituting the words “fine of \$20,000”.

Made this 10th day of July 2025



Minister of Public Works and Environment