



Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

Marine Notice No. 38 of 2003

*Notice to all Owners, Masters, Skippers, Surveyors, Shipyards, Boatyards and Repairers of Ships
and Fishing Vessels*

Decommissioning of Halon Systems

European Union (EU) Regulation 2037/2000 requires the decommissioning of certain ozone depleting substances throughout the European Union. Halon used for fire fighting purposes on board ships and fishing vessels is included in the lists of substances to be decommissioned.

Regulation 2037/2000 requires, amongst other things, that all fire fighting equipment in the EU containing halons must be decommissioned before 31/12/2003 and that the sale and use of halon, including material that has been recovered or recycled, is prohibited from 31/12/2003.

Annex VII of Regulation 2037/2000 provides exceptions to these requirements, for critical use, which reads:

“ for the making inert of occupied spaces where flammable liquid and/or gas release could occur in the military and oil, gas and petrochemical sector, and in existing cargo ships”.

The Commission considers that this critical use in respect to existing cargo ships does not extend to the use of halon in ships where it is used as a fire-extinguishing medium but rather to the making inert of occupied spaces.

The Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources knows of no vessels on the Irish Register of Ships where this exception would be applicable.

As Regulation 2037/2000 is an EU Regulation it is directly applicable within all member states. An EU company will be in breach of the regulation if they supply halon to any flag vessel after 31/12/2002 and any EU flag vessel will be in breach of the regulation if it retains a halon system after 31/12/2003. There is no provision for the Maritime Safety Directorate to issue exemptions to this Regulation.

Accordingly all interested parties are notified of this regulation by way of this Marine Notice and urged to ensure compliance.

Any replacement systems must comply with the EU Marine Equipment Directive and be approved. Further advice on approved systems may be obtained from the Marine Survey Office of the Maritime Safety Directorate.

Director General
Maritime Safety Directorate
Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources
Leeson Lane
Dublin 2

10th October, 2003

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice please contact the Marine Surveyors' Office, 26-27 Eden Quay, Dublin 1 at +353-1-8744900.

For information in relation to technical specification/type approval of radio equipment contact the Marine Radio Affairs Unit at +353 1 678 2363/2364/2365/2367.

For general enquiries please contact the Maritime Safety Division at +353-1-678 2360

Any enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Maritime Safety Directorate, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2
Email: marine.notices@dcmnr.gov.ie
Or visit our website: www.dcmnr.ie