

Summary of restrictions to the discharge of garbage into the sea under regulations 4, 5 and 6 of MARPOL Annex V

Note: This table is intended as a summary reference. The provisions in MARPOL Annex V prevail.

Garbage type ¹	All ships except platforms ⁴		Offshore platforms located more than 12 nm from nearest land and ships when alongside or within 500 meters of such platforms ⁴ Regulation 5
	Outside special areas Regulation 4 (Distances are from the nearest land)	Within special areas Regulation 6 (Distances are from nearest land or nearest ice-shelf)	
Food waste comminuted or ground ²	>3 nm, en route and as far as practicable	>12 nm, en route and as far as practicable ³	Discharge permitted
Food waste not comminuted or ground	>12 nm, en route and as far as practicable	Discharge prohibited	Discharge prohibited
Cargo residues ^{5, 6} not contained in wash water	> 12 nm, en route and as far as practicable	Discharge prohibited	Discharge prohibited
Cargo residues ^{5, 6} contained in wash water		> 12 nm, en route and as far as practicable (subject to conditions in regulation 6.1.2)	
Cleaning agents and additives ⁶ contained in cargo hold wash water	Discharge permitted	> 12 nm, en route and as far as practicable (subject to conditions in regulation 6.1.2)	Discharge prohibited
Cleaning agents and additives ⁶ in deck and external surfaces wash water		Discharge permitted	
Animal Carcasses (should be split or otherwise treated to ensure the carcasses will sink immediately)	Must be en route and as far from the nearest land as possible. Should be >100 nm and maximum water depth	Discharge prohibited	Discharge prohibited
All other garbage including plastics, synthetic ropes, fishing gear, plastic garbage bags, incinerator ashes, clinkers, cooking oil, floating dunnage, lining and packing materials, paper, rags, glass, metal, bottles, crockery and similar refuse	Discharge prohibited	Discharge prohibited	Discharge prohibited

1 When garbage is mixed with or contaminated by other harmful substances prohibited from discharge or having different discharge requirements, the more stringent requirements shall apply.

2 Comminuted or ground food wastes must be able to pass through a screen with mesh no larger than 25 mm.

3 The discharge of introduced avian products in the Antarctic area is not permitted unless incinerated, autoclaved or otherwise treated to be made sterile.

4 Offshore platforms located 12 nm from nearest land and associated ships include all fixed or floating platforms engaged in exploration or exploitation or associated processing of seabed mineral resources, and all ships alongside or within 500 m of such platforms.

5 Cargo residues means only those cargo residues that cannot be recovered using commonly available methods for unloading.

6 These substances must not be harmful to the marine environment.