

**RESOLUTION A.498(XII)**

*Adopted on 19 November 1981  
Agenda item 11*

**DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY SHIPS IN CARRYING OUT  
CRUDE OIL WASHING**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution A.297(VIII) by which it established the Marine Environment Protection Committee and specified the functions and responsibilities of that Committee,

RECALLING ALSO Regulation 13B of Annex I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), and the revised Specifications for the Design, Operation and Control of Crude Oil Washing Systems (COW Specifications) adopted by resolution A.446(XI),

NOTING that under MARPOL 73/78 new crude oil tankers of 20,000 tons deadweight and above and certain existing tankers of 40,000 tons deadweight and above will be required to operate with crude oil washing systems in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 13B(2) of Annex I of that instrument and the revised COW Specifications,

NOTING HOWEVER that difficulties have been encountered by ships in carrying out crude oil washing in certain ports, because of local regulations or objections prohibiting such operations,

NOTING ALSO that such regulations will prevent ships from implementing the requirement of Regulation 13B(4) of Annex I that ballast water shall be put only into cargo tanks which have been crude oil washed,

RECOGNIZING the importance of effective implementation of MARPOL 73/78 including effective operation of crude oil washing systems,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its fifteenth session,

1. URGES Governments to take necessary steps to ensure to the extent possible that their ports accept ships performing crude oil washing operations in accordance with the safety aspects of the revised COW Specifications and Operations and Equipment Manuals by or under the supervision of a qualified officer or officers;
2. INVITES Governments to notify IMCO on each occasion when difficulties have been encountered with regard to crude oil washing operations in particular ports, for circulation to other Governments;
3. INVITES the Marine Environment Protection Committee to keep the subject under review and take any further steps which it may consider necessary or appropriate to resolve the problem.