



# SHIP SAFETY BULLETIN

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**Subject:** **New environmental measures for cruise ships in waters under Canadian jurisdiction – 2022 season (modified August 18, 2022)**

## Purpose

This bulletin outlines new measures to strengthen Canadian discharge requirements for cruise ships operating in waters under Canadian jurisdiction during the 2022 cruise season, and has been updated to include a summary report of the first period of implementation (see Annex 2). This approach has been developed in cooperation with industry. These measures will help restore marine habitats, further protect Canadian waters, and set the foundation for a regulatory posture in 2023.

## Scope

This bulletin applies to the authorized representatives of cruise ships (certified to carry more than 100 persons and equipped with overnight accommodations) that are Canadian vessels or foreign vessels operating in waters under Canadian jurisdiction during the 2022 cruise season.

## What you need to know

For the 2022 cruise ship season, cruise ships will be subject to new non-mandatory environmental measures. These are:

1. Prohibiting the discharge of greywater and sewage within three nautical miles from shore where geographically possible;
2. Treating greywater together with sewage before it is discharged between three and twelve nautical miles from shore to the greatest extent possible;

### Keywords:

1. Cruise Ships
2. Sewage
3. Greywater

### Questions concerning this Bulletin should be addressed to:

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Contact us at: [marinesafety-securitemaritime@tc.gc.ca](mailto:marinesafety-securitemaritime@tc.gc.ca) or 1-855-859-3123 (Toll Free).

3. Strengthening the treatment of sewage between three and twelve nautical miles from shore using an approved treatment device.

### *Reporting*

The authorized representative of a cruise ship operating in waters under Canadian jurisdiction must also provide periodic reports outlining their compliance to Transport Canada. Reports are due on the following dates:

- June 5, August 5, October 5, and December 5, 2022

Reports should be sent to the following email address: [PollPrevCanada-PrevPollCanada@tc.gc.ca](mailto:PollPrevCanada-PrevPollCanada@tc.gc.ca)

[This bulletin has been updated to include Annex 2, which provides a summary of the information received from the first reporting period in June 2022.](#)

Transport Canada will continue to inspect cruise ships during the 2022 season. It will check the level of implementation of the new environmental measures and compliance with existing regulatory requirements. This information will support future regulations to control discharges from cruise ships in waters under Canadian jurisdiction.

The authorized representative of a cruise ship operating in waters under Canadian jurisdiction should implement the new environmental measures where safely, technically, and geographically possible. When a cruise ship is unable to implement the new environmental measures, the authorized representative must make sure to meet current regulatory requirements (Annex 1). Cruise ships must make all relevant discharge information available to Transport Canada.

**Annex 1**

**Current Regulatory and New Environmental Discharge Measures**

For the purpose of this document the term ‘sewage’ and ‘greywater’ have the same definition as in the *Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals Regulations*:

*sewage* means

- (a) human body wastes and wastes from other living animals;
- (b) drainage and other wastes from toilets and other receptacles intended to receive or retain human body wastes;
- (c) drainage from medical premises such as a dispensary or a sick bay via wash basins, wash tubs and scuppers located in such premises;
- (d) drainage from spaces containing living animals; and
- (e) other drainage or wastes when mixed with the drainage or other wastes referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d).

*greywater* means drainage from sinks, laundry machines, bath tubs, shower-stalls or dishwashers. It does not include sewage, or drainage from machinery spaces or workshop areas.

<b>Substance and distance from shore</b>	<b>Current Regulatory Measures<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>New Environmental Measures – 2022 Season</b>
Discharge of treated <b>sewage within 3 nautical miles</b> from shore	Cruise ships must treat sewage to fecal coliform counts equal to or less than 250/100 ml within 3 nm from shore. The discharge must not contain any visible solids and must not cause a sheen on the water, discoloration of the water or its shorelines or sewage sludge or an emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or on its shorelines.	Cruise ships certified to carry more than 100 persons and equipped with overnight accommodations must not discharge treated sewage within 3 nm from shore where safely, technically, and geographically possible.
Discharge of	Cruise ships must ensure sewage is	Cruise ships certified to carry more

<sup>1</sup> This table includes a summary of applicable requirements. For detailed information please refer to the *Vessel Pollution and Dangerous chemicals Regulation* [Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals Regulations \(justice.gc.ca\)](http://www.justice.gc.ca)

<p>treated <b>sewage</b> <b>between 3 and 12 nautical miles</b> from shore</p>	<p>comminuted and disinfected before discharging between 3 and 12 nm from shore. The discharge must not contain any visible solids and must not cause a film or sheen on the water, discoloration of the water or its shorelines or sewage sludge or an emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or on its shorelines.</p>	<p>than 100 persons and equipped with overnight accommodations should endeavor to utilize an approved sewage treatment device capable of treatment to fecal coliform counts equal to or less than 14/100 ml before discharging between 3 and 12 nm from shore. The discharge must not contain any visible solids and must not cause a film or sheen on the water, discoloration of the water or its shorelines or sewage sludge or an emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or on its shorelines.</p>
<p>Discharge of <b>greywater</b> <b>within 3 nautical miles</b> from shore</p>	<p>Cruise ships built after 2013 and certified to carry more than 500 passengers must treat greywater within 3 nm from shore. Any release of greywater must not result in the deposit of solids in the water or leave a sheen on the water.</p>	<p>Cruise ships certified to carry more than 100 persons and equipped with overnight accommodations must not discharge greywater within 3 nm from shore where safely, technically, and geographically possible.</p>
<p>Discharge of <b>greywater</b> <b>between 3 and 12 nautical miles</b> from shore</p>	<p>No specific treatment requirements in place. Any release of greywater must not result in the deposit of solids in the water or leave a sheen on the water.</p>	<p>Cruise ships certified to carry more than 100 persons and equipped with overnight accommodations must treat greywater together with sewage before discharging between 3 and 12 nm from shore to the greatest extent possible. Any release of greywater must not result in the deposit of solids in the water or leave a sheen on the water.</p>

## Annex 2

### **First Summary Report of the Implementation of New Environmental Cruise Ship Measures – June 2022 reporting period.**

The Government of Canada is committed to protecting the health and safety of Canadians and the environment from the potential risks of marine pollution. This includes working to improve water quality and our marine environments from coast to coast to coast, to build a new world class environmental regime.

In support of these efforts, and to coincide with the restart of cruise ship operations, Transport Canada worked with the cruise ship industry to successfully implement new environmental measures. These measures are a first step in building this new environmental regime, and to address concerns raised by the Canadian public and environmental organizations with respect to vessel-sourced pollution in Canadian waters.

On April 4, 2022, Transport Canada [announced](#) these new environmental measures prepared in cooperation with the cruise industry. These measures included the following:

1. Prohibiting the discharge of greywater and sewage, treated or untreated, within 3 nautical miles (nm) from shore where geographically possible;
2. treating greywater together with sewage before it is discharged between 3 and 12 nm from shore to the greatest extent possible; and
3. strengthening the treatment of sewage between 3 and 12 nm from shore using an approved treatment device.

These enhanced environmental measures are in addition to existing international discharge requirements that Canada follows, which are detailed in the International Maritime Organization [International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships](#) (MARPOL). These international requirements are implemented in Canada through the [Canada Shipping Act, 2001](#) and its associated regulations, the [Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemical Regulations](#). All told, these new environmental measures exceed international standards, strengthen Canada's existing discharge regime, and place Canada amongst the countries with the most stringent requirements for these discharges in the world.

Transport Canada is also continuing to work with the cruise ship industry to implement the environmental measures for cruise ships on a mandatory basis beginning in 2023 and will initiate further engagement with the entire shipping industry and any interested partners to develop and implement further discharge measures for other areas of concern, such as scrubber discharges.

While Transport Canada works to make the new cruise ship changes permanent through amendments to the *Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals Regulations*, the measures will be

implemented through an interim order, which has the same effect as a regulation, but allows for action to be taken immediately while the mandatory, longer term regulatory process is followed.

The new measures include a requirement for cruise ships to provide reports to Transport Canada every two months, from June to December 2022, outlining their implementation of the new environmental measures. The results for the first reporting period are summarized below and clearly demonstrate the success of these measures.

**Reporting period:** April 9 to June 5, 2022

**Number of reports received by Transport Canada:** 47

**Implemented all Canadian wastewater requirements under existing laws and regulations:** 47

**Implemented all new environmental measures:** 46

**Partially implemented new environmental measures:** 1\*\*

**Did not implement any new environmental measures:** 0

**Table 1: Implementation of New Measures by Region: June Reporting Period**

Region	Ports Visited	Number of Cruise Ships*	Implementation
Pacific	Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, Prince Rupert	35	Full
Quebec – St. Lawrence / Atlantic	Montreal, Quebec City, Saguenay, Sept-Îles, Havre-St-Pierre, Gaspé, Baie-Comeau, Cap-Aux-Mueles, Halifax, Sydney, Yarmouth, Lunenburg, Louisbourg, St. John, St. Andres, Grand Mannan Island, Charlottetown, Corner Brook, Îles de la Madeleine, Woody Point	12	Full
		1**	Partial
Great Lakes	Toronto, Port Colborne, Windsor, Midland, Parry Sound, Little Current	4	Full

\*Some cruise ships visited multiple regions on one journey and are counted under two or more regions. The above breakdown is a depiction of vessel implementation per region.

\*\*One vessel was able to partially implement the new environmental measures, due to geographic and technical limitations (e.g., the vessel did not have the greywater treatment equipment onboard necessary to implement the new measures), and safety of the vessel (e.g., greywater had to be discharged to ensure the vessel's stability). It visited ports in both the Quebec-St. Lawrence and Atlantic regions.