



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

**No Discharge Compliance Program
Inspection Protocol**

Purpose of inspection is threefold:

1. To identify the type of MSD aboard each vessel;
2. To confirm that the MSD is properly sealed/secured/configured to prevent the overboard discharge of sewage when in RI waters; and
3. To ensure that the owner/operator is aware of the no-discharge law, available pump-out opportunities, and appropriate sewage disposal options.

1. Type of MSDs

- ◆ Type I – treats sewage by chemical means, e.g., maceration and chlorination (no holding tank).
- ◆ Type II – treats sewage by biological means, e.g., bacteria (no holding tank).
- ◆ Type III – device that stores sewage in a holding tank; or a device that incinerates the waste.

Any vessel with a marine toilet but without a Type I, Type II, or Type III MSD is not in compliance with state or federal law and cannot be issued a decal.

2. Status of MSD

- A. Vessels with a holding tank (Type III MSD) and no through-hull fitting allowing sewage to be discharged overboard are in compliance with RI's no-discharge law.
 - ◆ Upon inspection and certification of compliance, these vessels are to be issued a **green** decal.
- B. Vessels with a holding tank (Type III MSD) and with a through-hull fitting that allows sewage to be discharged overboard, must have the MSD properly secured in a manner that prevents overboard discharges (when operating in RI waters).

Properly secured means:

- ◆ Closing the valve that leads to the through-hull fitting and removing the

- handle;
- ◆ Closing and padlocking the valve that leads to the through-hull fitting; or
- ◆ Using a non-releasable wire-tie to hold the valve that leads to the through-hull fitting in the closed position.
- ◆ Upon inspection and certification of compliance, these vessels to be issued a **yellow** decal.

- C. Vessels with a Type I or Type II MSD (no holding tank) must have the MSD properly secured in a manner that prevents overboard discharges (when operating in RI waters).

Properly secured means:

- ◆ Closing the seacock and removing the handle;
- ◆ Padlocking the seacock in the closed position;
- ◆ Using a non-releasable wire-tie to hold the seacock in the closed position;
- or
- ◆ Locking the door to the space enclosing the toilet with a padlock or door handle key lock.
- ◆ Upon inspection and certification of compliance, these vessels are to be issued a **yellow** decal.

3. Public Education & Awareness

- ◆ All boat owners/operators shall be provided with DEM flyer titled *Managing Boat Waste in Rhode Island's No Discharge Area*, which includes information on how to comply with RI's No Discharge Law, and how to access map of pumpout facility locations.

Issuance of Decals

- ◆ Decals must be displayed in a **prominent position** on each vessel that passes inspection.
- ◆ It is recommended that the decals be affixed to the port side, or on the transom.
- ◆ Inspectors should provide the decals to the vessel owner/operator, advising them as to proper placement. Inspectors may affix the decals themselves, but only if specifically asked to do so by vessel owner/operator, in the location requested by the owner/operator.
- ◆ It is in the vessel owner/operator's best interest to ensure that the decal is prominently displayed.

Collection of Fees

- ◆ For each inspection, inspectors may charge up to \$35/vessel, plus up to \$25 for each additional toilet aboard the vessel.