

WÄRTSILÄ BILGE WATER GUARD



The focus on accidental oil spills into the sea is increasing daily. Port state control authorities in several countries, with the US Coast Guard in the lead, are intensifying the search for violations of IMO regulations. The consequences are severe: the news world is overflowing with articles about crew members and ship management being sentenced with severe penalty fees and even imprisonment, for being unable to prove without doubt that they are innocent to an oil spill appearing in the path of their ship.

In order to ease the minds of machinery responsible crew staff when it comes to

providing evidence of their innocence, Wärtsilä has developed the Wärtsilä Bilge Water Guard (BWG). The Wärtsilä BWG is effectively a "black box" installed between the bilge system and the overboard discharge pipe, the Wärtsilä BWG constantly monitors the oil content in the water pumped into the sea and prevents discharges if the levels are in excess of limitations. Additionally, it records all discharges, complete with oily water separator status, time of discharge, water amount and oil content. If connected to a GPS system (optional), the current position of the ship is registered as well. The Wärtsilä BWG

is fully self-contained, with all user operable equipment enclosed in a locked cabinet (all unlocking of the cabinet are recorded). Data can be retrieved through a USB port or as a printout from the built-in printer. For both crew members and ship management, the Wärtsilä BWG provides a safety net and a possibility to control and make evident to governing bodies that existing regulations have not been violated. It also ensures that company environmental policies are followed.