**WHAT IS BILGE WATER?**

Bilge water is not exactly water but a mixture or variety of substances. It is a mixture of fresh water, sea water, oil, sludge, chemicals and various other fluids. All these get accumulated in the bilge wells and the mixture formed is known as bilge water.

As it is imposed by international law, any liquid containing oil particles in it should not be discharged in the open sea. Although bilge wells are helpful to store this contaminated water, they can be a threat to the engine room if they overflow. If the water level rises up to or above the floor plates, accidents may happen and even the stability of the ship may be disturbed. For this reason, bilge wells are periodically emptied with the help of bilge pumps.

According to MARPOL, bilge water cannot be directly pumped out into the sea. It must first pass through an Oily Water Separator (OWS) where the level of the oil particles contained in the mixture is reduced. Bilge water is allowed to be thrown overboard only when the amount of oil particles is below 15 ppm and the ship is en route.

Bilge wells are always provided with strainers to prevent solid particles from entering and choking the bilge pump or the oily water separator. Absence of strainers might lead to drop in the bilge pump outlet pressure, and reduction in the outlet flow of the oily water separator.

**WHAT IS BILGE WATER?**

Bilge water is not exactly water but a mixture or **v\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of substances. It is a mixture of fresh water, sea water, **o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, sludge, chemicals and various other **f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. All these get accumulated in the bilge **w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and the mixture formed is known as bilge water.

As it is imposed by international law, any liquid containing oil **p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in it should not be discharged in the open **s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. Although bilge wells are helpful to **s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** this contaminated water, they can be a threat to the engine room if they **o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. If the water level rises up to or above the **f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** plates, accidents may happen and even the **s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of the ship may be disturbed. For this reason, bilge wells are periodically **e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** with the help of bilge pumps.

According to MARPOL, bilge water cannot be **d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** pumped out into the sea. It must first pass through an Oily Water **S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (OWS) where the level of the oil particles **c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in the mixture is reduced. Bilge water is allowed to be thrown **o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** only when the amount of oil particles is **b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** 15 ppm and the ship is en route.

Bilge wells are always provided with **s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to prevent solid particles from entering and **c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** the bilge pump or the oily water separator. Absence of strainers might lead to drop in the bilge pump outlet **p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, and reduction in the outlet **f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of the oily water separator.