Vapour Emission Control — study guide

Vapour emission control keeps volatile organic compound (VOC) vapours out of the air and returns them to shore. This guide covers the concept, the arrangement, the training and the regulation.[1]

What it is

Vapour emission control allows vapour from oil or chemical tankers to be returned to shore in a **closed system**. Atmospheric emissions from the international maritime industry contribute to global pollution that causes damage to people's health in coastal areas, harm to the marine environment, and damage to vegetation along the coast.

The common arrangement

The most common arrangement for vapour emission control is an **onboard vapour collection system** combined with a **shore-based vapour treatment facility**.

Training

All personnel with responsibility for carrying out VOC management should receive training in why VOC emission control is required, the specific systems in place on board for the control of emissions, and the principles of VOC emission control.

Regulation

Atmospheric emissions are regulated by **MARPOL Annex VI**.

Key facts to remember

- Vapour emission control returns vapour from oil/chemical tankers to shore in a closed system.
- Emissions harm health in coastal areas, the marine environment, and coastal vegetation.
- Most common arrangement: onboard vapour collection system + shore-based vapour treatment facility.
- VOC-management training: why control is required, the onboard systems, and the principles of VOC control.
- Regulated by MARPOL Annex VI.

Sources

1. IMO MARPOL Annex VI — Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships (volatile organic compound emissions and vapour emission control).

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