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PLASTICS POLICY

Scope

This policy describes the commitment of the Company towards reduction in the use of plastics and applies to all staff ashore and on board the vessels in accordance with the fundamental values of the Gearbulk Group. The Policy will be communicated to all staff, contractors and suppliers, and will be available to the public.

Policy

Commitment

The commitments of the Company towards the protection of the environment and preventing pollution in general have been stated in its policy, SMS 0101.02 Environment policy.

The Company also recognises that the pervasive nature of plastic pollution is one of the greatest threats facing our oceans and is committed to minimising the amount of plastic, both macro-plastic and micro-plastic, entering the marine environment.

Objectives

To achieve these aims the Company will:

- Take all steps necessary to comply with Section V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973/78 (MARPOL V) assigning adequate resources for the purpose.
- Carefully segregate, compact and deliver plastic garbage generated on board its vessels to a shore-based processing facility.
- Apply environmentally friendly technologies to minimise the volume of plastic waste.
- Engage external service providers in reducing the use of 'single-use' plastics in packaging during delivery and accept all such packaging returned by the vessel for environmentally friendly disposal.
- As far as practicable, reduce the use of plastics such as food and water containers, cutlery, straws and other single use products made of plastic on board its vessels and at its offices.
- Where the use of plastics is unavoidable, encourage the use of biodegradable or compostable plastics.
- Monitor the consumption and waste of plastics on board its vessels and shore offices.
- Promote awareness of the damage to the environment and the human food cycle by macro and micro-plastic debris through our procedures, courses and seminars.

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QUALITY POLICY

Targets

The target of the Company is to reduce the volume of plastic garbage generated by the shore offices and the vessels by 20% of their 2015 results by 2020.

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