EMSA
European Maritime Safety Agency

EMPOLLEX PROGRAMME RULES, PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

Annex 1 – Areas of Expertise

General Scope

The Empollex Programme focuses on exchanges in the field of **marine pollution preparedness and response**. There are 5 major areas of expertise within the field of at-sea preparedness and response, which are suggested areas of focus for an Empollex exchange.

The expert's objectives for the exchange should also fall within any of these 5 areas:

1. Coordination and incident management
2. Technical expertise, aerial surveillance and response operations
3. Contingency and emergency planning
4. Legal & financial aspects
5. Scientific & environmental expertise

1. Coordination & incident management

Expertise in:

- Coordination tasks of National Contact Points and maritime emergency centres;
- Communication and coordination between competent authorities at a national & international level;
- Coordination of response between national & international response teams;
- Crisis management and decision-making;
- Communication with media, public and other associations i.e. fishery, unions, etc.

Types of experts to go on exchange:

- Professionals/Staff from the National Contact Points (national maritime emergency coordination centres (MRCC/CROSS);
- Coastguard centres (or similar notification centres) responsible for marine pollution reporting and incident coordination;
- Heads and staff members of national or regional authorities, who are responsible for decision-making on the response operations and the crisis management;
- Response Commanders / On-Scene coordinators, incident managers, liaison officers, team leaders and staff members who are part of the crisis management or marine operational response teams;
- Joint Response Command Centres (JRCC)
- Logistics coordinators/ experts for pollution response operations;
- Experts dealing with the media during pollution incidents.

2. Technical expertise, aerial surveillance and response operations

Expertise in:

- Response strategies, techniques and equipment to respond to marine pollution incidents caused by oil and HNS;
- Response at sea;
- Fate and effects of oil on the marine environment, evaluation of behaviour, risk or impact of released oil and HNS
- Aerial and satellite surveillance;
- Detection, tracing and monitoring techniques;
- Health and safety considerations and measures especially in terms of responders at sea;
- Temporary storage of waste, waste disposal and treatment in terms of oil recovered at sea;
- Logistics support during a marine pollution response operations;
- At-sea response operations.

Types of experts to go on exchange:

- Professionals with expertise in at-sea response and/or coastal clean-up (e.g. pollution response vessel crew, Coastguard, response teams, Civil Protection officers, maritime administrations, fire brigades, etc.)
- Professionals responsible for, trained, or experienced in response to marine pollution by HNS i.e. chemical response teams.
- Professionals with expertise in waste minimization, collection of waste/oil recovered at sea, temporary storage, disposal and treatment.
- Aerial surveillance operators and observers, operators involved in satellite surveillance, aircraft pilots, etc.
- Professionals responsible for the maintenance of response equipment, managing response bases, and/or the logistics of response operations.

3. Contingency and Emergency planning

Expertise in:

- The drafting of a national or regional emergency or contingency plan (oil and HNS), or different aspects thereof including:
    - General response planning considerations: national/regional response organization, risk analysis, behaviour and fate of pollutant, sensitivity mapping, etc.
    - operational plans;
    - notification procedures, alerting and reporting systems;

- Preparedness and response aspects including:
    - Response strategies;
    - Evaluation and decision-making (including Net Environmental Benefit Analysis - NEBA);
    - Requests for assistance from neighbouring countries including coordination of international support / equipment;
    - Waste disposal and management;
    - Logistics support and coordination.
- Other related subjects: record keeping and cost recovery, informing public and media, training and exercises, etc.

Types of experts to go on exchange:

- Professionals responsible for the development, exercising, and running of a marine pollution (oil and HNS) contingency plan;
- Professionals directly involved in marine pollution contingency and emergency planning including communication between different government authorities, requests for assistance on an international level and exercises and training of the plan.
- Members of regulatory agencies involved in these subjects.

4. Legal and financial aspects

Legal and financial aspects related to marine pollution preparedness and response including compensation and liability issues.

Expertise in:

- Expertise in legal and financial aspects of marine oil and HNS accidents;
- Civil or environmental liability and maritime insurances with regards to marine pollution incidents
- Cost recovery (collection, follow-up and settlement of marine pollution claims).
- Enforcement and prosecution with regard to deliberate marine pollution (mainly MARPOL offences);
- Knowledge of, or interest in several aspects that could enhance the cooperation between Member States exercising their enforcement powers as a coastal State, flag State or port State during a marine pollution incident:
    - the duties, responsibilities and current practices of the various competent authorities;
    - the collection of and requirements for evidence;
    - differences in national implementation of international maritime law;
    - Procedures for judicial cooperation and rendering of assistance.

Types of experts to go on exchange:

- Lawyers and other officials with expertise in maritime law;
- Legal and financial advisors that assist a crisis management committee /team;
- Officials responsible for the collection and settlement of claims;
- Prosecutors, investigators and other officials with judicial expertise in the field of enforcement and prosecution of deliberate marine pollution (illegal discharges).
- Experts in the field of judicial cooperation and rendering of assistance.

5. Scientific and Environmental Expertise

Expertise in:

- Behaviour, fate, impact and effect of oil and hazardous and noxious substances on the marine environment
- Environmental impact of oil and HNS spills (incl. sensitivity mapping) in terms of Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) to be able to determine response strategies
- Mathematical modelling of oil spills i.e. fore and hind cast models
- Characterisation and monitoring of pollutant, environmental monitoring, etc.
- Oil and chemical analysis for environmental, operational or legal purposes (including oil sampling);
- Remote sensing techniques;
- Personnel safety and public health issues.

Types of experts to go on exchange:

- Scientists with expertise in the properties, behaviour and fate of oil in the marine environment.
- Experts working in the Ministry of Environment, Environmental institutes/centres, etc.
- Experts responsible for environmental impact assessments especially in terms of determining possible response strategies during the response to a marine oil spill.
- Scientific/environmental advisors in a crisis management committee /team.
- Experts in marine ecological sensitivity, in eco-toxicology, or in impact and effects of marine pollution.
- Monitoring and remote sensing experts.
- Marine chemists with expertise in oil or chemical sampling and sample analysis (incl. oil fingerprinting).
- Modellers developing or officials using oil behaviour models, impact models, NEBA models or chemical spill models.
- Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) experts.
- Medical, health and safety experts.