

Principles and guidelines concerning the sending, receiving and returning of equipment in case of international assistance operation

1. International assistance, by one or more States, in case of accidents resulting in serious marine pollution may necessitate transfer of equipment and products from one country to another.
2. Sending, receiving and returning of such material creates a number of logistic, administrative and legal problems which should be resolved quickly, since a delay in the above chain of actions may considerably reduce the efficiency of the assistance. General arrangements in this regard should be adopted prior to any accident and could be usefully included in the National Contingency Plan. Thus only the details of application remain to be settled at the time of action.
3. Following the detailed evaluation of the situation, the State requesting assistance should specify, as precisely as possible, the type and quantity of equipment and products needed.
4. The State supplying assistance should, in its reply, attach a detailed list of equipment and products available, including necessary technical specifications (dimensions, weights, capacities), precise power requirement (type of fuel, consumption, etc.) and envisaged transport modalities. It should also indicate the equipment needed for handling such material in the port or airport of entry, the number of people required for off-loading operations and the necessary means of transportation of response material to the site of the accident.
5. In order to put such equipment in use as soon as possible, the requesting State will take the necessary measures for immediate customs clearance of all arriving material and, if needed, authorize their use (e.g. authorization to navigate), as well as for the immediate clearing of immigration formalities for personnel needed for operating the equipment. The same arrangements should be implemented when the personnel and the equipment are provided by the ship insurers.
6. The Requesting State undertakes to return the equipment as soon as the operations are terminated, if requested to do so by the supplier.