

PRESS RELEASE
Ventilation of vessels; gradual ban from October 2024



*Mr Jörg Rusche, Deputy Secretary General of the CCNR, and Ambassador Claude Wild
Source: Secretariat of the CDNI*

Strasbourg, 23.04.2024 – **Switzerland** has ratified the amendment to the Convention on the collection, deposit and reception of waste generated during navigation on the Rhine and other inland waterways (CDNI). The **deposit** of this sixth and final **instrument of ratification** is a major step towards **environmental protection** and the preservation of air quality.

The amendment will come into force on **1 October 2024**. It will facilitate a **ban on the ventilation** of inland navigation vessels within the scope of the CDNI. For information, ventilation refers to the direct release into the atmosphere of harmful vapours from tankers.

The ventilation ban will be introduced **gradually** in order to allow the development of the necessary infrastructure and appropriate logistic solutions (such as the use of [exclusive or compatible transport](#)). During the **first phase**, which will come into force on 1 October 2024, the ventilation ban will apply to the **most harmful substances** (benzene, petrol, petroleum distillates and mixtures containing more than 10% ethanol). The ventilation ban will subsequently be extended to other types of substances in phases 2 and 3.

The instrument of ratification was deposited by **Ambassador Claude Wild**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe. The deposit took place on **23 April 2024** at the Palais du Rhin in Strasbourg. The six CDNI Contracting Parties have now adopted and ratified this new regulation, which lays down the necessary procedures for collecting and treating these vapours. At the same ceremony, Switzerland also deposited its instrument of ratification of the 2012 Strasbourg Convention on Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation ([CLNI 2012](#)).

Further information on the new degassing/ventilation provisions can be found at: <https://www.cdni-iwt.org/part-b-degassing/?lang=en>.

About the CDNI (www.cdni-iwt.org)

The Convention of 9 September 1996 on the collection, deposit and reception of waste produced during navigation on the Rhine and inland waterways (CDNI) has been in force since 1st November 2009. It has six Contracting States (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland) and aims to protect the environment, and especially water. To this end, the CDNI establishes the rules for:

- **encouraging the prevention** of waste production,
- **directing this waste to a network of dedicated reception stations** throughout the navigable waterway network,
- **providing international financing** for these initiatives having regard to the “**polluter pays**” principle
- **monitoring compliance** with the bans on discharging the waste in question into the surface water.

One amendment to the convention, currently being ratified, concerns the receipt of gaseous residues of liquid cargoes with the aim of protecting the atmosphere.

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The CDNI's Secretariat function is provided by the Secretariat of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR).