



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

Fonds internationaux
d'indemnisation pour les
dommages dus à la pollution
par les hydrocarbures

Fondos internacionales
de indemnización de daños
debidos a contaminación
por hidrocarburos

PRINCESS EMPRESS – INFORMATION FOR CLAIMANTS

IMPENDING EXPIRATION OF THREE-YEAR TIME-BAR PERIOD

Information of interest to claimants who have suffered oil pollution damage as a result of the Princess Empress incident which occurred off the coast of Oriental Mindoro, Philippines on 28 February 2023.

Pursuant to the international conventions governing compensation for damage due to oil pollution, namely the 1992 Civil Liability Convention and the 1992 Fund Convention, the persons affected by the *Princess Empress* incident have a period of three years to reach an agreement with the Shipowners' Club (the insurer) and the International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Fund, 1992 (the 1992 Fund) regarding their claims for compensation of the losses suffered.

It is possible that, at the end of this period, some claimants may not have reached an agreement with the Shipowners' Club and/or the 1992 Fund on their claims. Therefore, those claimants would run the risk of losing their right to compensation, that is their claims would become time barred, unless they have filed a legal action to protect their compensation rights, within the three-year period. The three-year period begins on the date when the claimants suffered their damage.

The damage may have occurred sometime after the incident. However, as this date may vary for affected parties, the Shipowners' Club and the 1992 Fund suggest that claimants conservatively consider **28 February 2026** (the date of the third anniversary of the *Princess Empress* incident) as the date by which they should file legal actions to preserve any unresolved claims.

It will still be possible for a claimant to reach an amicable settlement with the Shipowners' Club and the 1992 Fund even after the claimant commences a lawsuit.

It is important to note that the filing of a legal action is without prejudice to any rights, defences or immunities of the 1992 Fund, the owner of the *Princess Empress* and/or the Shipowners' Club, and should not be construed as a guarantee that compensation will be paid. The filing of a claim in Court within the three-year period merely preserves the claimant's potential right to compensation, and the claim will still be assessed according to the internationally agreed IOPC Funds' criteria for the admissibility and payment of claims.

Parties who believe they have suffered a loss, and whose claim for compensation has not yet been the subject of an amicable agreement with the 1992 Fund and the Shipowners Club, are encouraged to seek legal advice on the requirements of legal action in order to avoid expiration of their rights to compensation.