

Port State Control – Information Notice No. 1 of 2012

The purpose of this notice is to advise shipowners, operators, managers and Masters of Isle of Man registered ships of the following;

Fuel Quality/ Low Sulphur Fuel Usage in Turkish Ports

The Ship Registry has received information concerning the following from the General Directorate of Marine Transport of the Republic of Turkey, which has announced that, with effect from 1 January 2012, all vessels at berth in Turkish ports or operating in the inland waterways will be required to use marine diesel fuel with a sulphur content of no more than 0.1%. Passenger vessels operating within Turkish territorial waters will be restricted to using fuels with a sulphur content of no more than 1.5%.

We can confirm to the best of our knowledge vessels transiting the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits will not be required to comply with the above requirements with respect low sulphur fuel oil usage.

Further detailed information on this subject matter is attached below for clarification on this subject matter.

Extract from Turkish interpretation:-

The requirement is applicable to the "inland waterway ships" and "berthed ships", those ships are required to burn / use the marine fuels which are not exceeding % 0.1 sulphur content by mass after 01 January 2012. In this regulation, the "inland water" is described as "Natural, unnatural lakes and rivers" and "inland waterway ships" are the ships which are "every type of vessel/boat and fisherman boat used for carriage of passenger and cargo". In addition to those, "berthed ships" term is "any ship which is during the loading, unloading or hotelling, including the time spent when not engaged in cargo operations or any ship moored safely or anchored inside of the harbour/port area" defined by Administration. Therefore, it is required to use marine fuels which are not exceeding the 0.1% sulphur content by mass for the inland waterway ships, fisherman boats and also moored or anchored every type of vessel inside of the harbour / port area after 01 January 2012. Also concluded that the fuel changeover operation to be carried out as soon as possible after arrival at berth and as late as possible before departure.

The regulation will be applied on the territorial seas and emission control areas, however the warships and other vessels on military service are not required to comply with this regulation. The vessels calling at Turkish ports and anchored vessels at anchorage area, loading, unloading or receiving stores / bunkering, including the time spent when not engaged in cargo operations or moored safely or anchored are required to comply with the requirement regarding the burning the marine fuels not exceeding the % 0.1 sulphur content. This regulation is not applicable to the vessels whenever, according to published timetables, ships are due to be berth or anchor for less than 2 (two) hours.

For all that, the vessels passing through the Turkish Straits (Bosphorus and Dardanelles) in other words transit vessels are not required to comply with this regulation.

Within the scope of this regulation, marine fuels which exceeding % 1.5 sulphur content are to be used in the territorial seas and emission control areas by all passenger ships which are permitted by Administration to operate on regular services after 01 January 2012. All of these passenger vessels are required to carry out the fuel change over before enter to the territorial seas and emission control areas and burn this fuels while running on this areas.

The arrangements regarding the marine fuels mentioned in this regulation are to be understood as all marine fuels which are used for main engines, auxiliary engines, boilers, and other machinery. There is not a defined SOx emission control area in Turkey meantime. In order to define a SOx area, some statistical research to be carried out and also risk analysis to be completed. Turkish Administration is running a research project regarding the SOx area which is going to cover the Turkish straits (Bosphorus and Dardanelles) and Marmara Sea primarily and followed by all territorial seas. On the other hand, according to the results of those research and studies, the Administration will take the final decision for define a SOx area.

Additionally, during the inspections which will held by Administration staff (PSCO), the bunker delivery notes and ship log books will be inspected in order to be sure that the fuel changeover has take place properly. Also, sampling of the marine fuel for on-board combustion while being delivered to ships and fuel samples will be taken from the fuel tanks as declared by the ship crew in order to send for analysis. In case of any non conformity found, penalties will be applied as required by environmental protection national laws.

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