

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, MARITIME AFFAIRS AND
COMMUNICATIONS
Undersecretariat of Maritime Affairs
General Directorate of Sea Transportation

Number: B.02.01.DNM/0.06.14.01.143.01/34438

07/12/2011

Subject: Sulfur in Maritime Fuels

TO
İSTANBUL & MARMARA, AEGEAN, MEDITERRANEAN, BLACK SEA REGIONS
CHAMBER OF SHIPPING
(Meclisi Mebusan Cad. No: 22 Fındıklı / İSTANBUL)

- Re.:**
- a) “Regulations Concerning the Reduction of Sulfur Percentage in Certain Types of Fuel Oil” which came into force upon publication in the Official Gazette dated 6 October 2009 issue number 27368,
 - b) Regulations Amending the Regulations Concerning the Reduction of Sulfur Percentage in Certain Types of Fuel Oil” which came into force upon publication in the Official Gazette dated 31 December 2009 issue number 27449,
 - c) Our letter dated 07.09.2011 number 25963
 - d) Letter by the Lloyd’s Register dated 11.11.2011 number 2301/EY/es/347

In the letter referenced to in (d) above detailed information was requested with respect to certain matters stated in our letter referenced to in (c) above regarding “Fuel Quality”

As may be understood from the relevant articles of the regulations referenced to in (a) above amended through regulations referenced to in (b) above with effect from 01 January 2012, the obligation to use maritime fuels with at most 0.1% sulfur content by mass applied to “inland water vessels” and “vessels berthed at ports”. In the said regulations the definition of “inland waters” covers “Natural and artificial lakes, dam reservoirs, fisheries and rivers” whereas “inland water vessels” mean “all kinds of vessels and fishing boats used in inland waters to carry freight and passengers”. The term “vessels berthed at ports” is defined as “vessels berthed or anchored safely during such periods when loading, unloading or accommodations activities are carried out within the boundaries of any port or during such periods to elapse without executing any load operations”. Therefore, from 01 January 2012 onwards, all kinds of vessels and fishing boats operating in inland waters as well as all kinds of vessels either berthed or anchored within the boundaries of a given port shall be obliged to use maritime fuels containing at most 0.1% sulfur by mass. Within this context the regulations contemplate that “vessels are required to complete fuel replacement operations within the shortest time practicable after arrival at the port and at the latest time before leaving the port.” As stipulated in Article 2 headed “Scope” of the said regulations the provisions stated under the regulations shall be implemented “within maritime jurisdiction areas or the designated pollution control areas”. Likewise, as it is to be understood from the same article of the said regulations, “fuels used by battleships or military-purpose vessels” are excluded from this implementation. Vessels arriving at Turkish ports as well as vessels anchored at the anchoring site are subject to the rule of using maritime fuels with at most 0.1% sulfur content by mass during the periods any loading, unloading or accommodation activities are carried out or as long as they are safely berthed or anchored during such periods to elapse without any load operations with the exception of such cases stated in paragraph 2 Article 2 of the subject regulations. Within this context, the obligation of vessels berthed at ports to use maritime

fuels with sulfur content not more than 0,1% by mass shall not apply in the event any such vessels are kept berthed or anchored at the port for less than two hours according to the published tariff.

Furthermore, vessels who transit Turkish Straits without calling at any port are not subject to the rule requiring the use of maritime fuels with sulfur content not exceeding 0,1% by mass provided they do maintain their transit status.

Under the said regulations all passenger liners offering regular shuttle services by obtaining a line permit from our administration are obliged to use maritime fuels containing at most 1.5% sulfur by mass in “maritime jurisdiction areas or designated pollution areas” with effect from 01 January 2012. In the regulations the terms “regular shuttle service” and “passenger liner” were further defined and a passenger liner which offers regular shuttle services by obtaining a line permit from our administration is obliged to exchange to the said maritime fuel before entering the maritime jurisdiction areas or the designated pollution control areas and use the said maritime fuel while cruising in these areas.

These guidelines stipulated as such concern maritime fuels and are expected to comprise all maritime fuels regardless of any fuel distinction used in main machinery, auxiliary machinery, boilers or other machines.

Though mentioned in the regulations there is no SOx emission control area currently existing in our country. Required statistics and calculations have to be made and risk and loss analyses have to be demonstrated in order to announce such an area. Across our institution we have ongoing projects undertaken to carry out these statistics and calculations and assess their results covering primarily Turkish Straits and Marmara Sea followed by all our maritime jurisdiction areas. These projects are currently at the assessment stage and a final decision may be rendered as to whether such an area can be designated or not based on project output obtained upon the completion of the project.

In audits to be performed by our personnel within the framework of the subject guidelines bunker fuel delivery minutes and logbooks shall be inspected and vessels shall be checked as to whether they carry out fuel exchange operations regularly and in the required fashion. Furthermore, samples shall be taken from samples which are delivered to the vessel during fuel supply and from the tank which the vessel declares to be containing the fuel which is required to be used as per the said regulations and sent for analysis. In case where any incompliance is determined the relevant provisions of Environmental Law number 2872 shall apply.

Kindly submitted for your information for due action to be taken.

Dr. Özkan POYRAZ
For the Minister
General Manager
-signed-

CC:

As Duly Required:

Lloyd’s Register

IMAMB Chamber of Shipping

Mersin Chamber of Shipping

For Information Purposes:

Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

(General Directorate of Environment Management)