

Sulphur 0.5% - 1 January 2020

We have attached documents published by IMO relative to the implementation of SOx 2020.

a. Resolution MEPC.320(74) “2019 Guidelines for Consistent Implementation of the 0.50% Sulphur Limit under MARPOL Annex VI”

The purpose of these Guidelines is to ensure consistent implementation of the 0.50% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI. These Guidelines are intended for use by Administrations, port States, shipowners, shipbuilders and fuel oil suppliers, as appropriate.

The document includes guidance on:

- Impact on fuel and machinery systems: it warns about issues with low viscosity, biodiesel, fuel stability;
- ISO Standard for residual fuels: ISO 8217:2017;
- Port State Control: Fuel oil sample analysis;
- Standard format for reporting fuel oil non-availability.

b. MEPC.1/Circ.878 on the Guidance on the development of a ship implementation plan for the consistent implementation of the 0.50% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI.

- MEPC 73 agreed that Administrations should encourage ships flying their flag to develop implementation plans, outlining how the ship may prepare in order to comply with the required sulphur content limit of 0.50% by 1 January 2020;
- The plan could be complemented with a record of actions taken by the ship in order to be compliant by the applicable date;
- ship implementation plan is not a mandatory requirement;
- A lack of a ship implementation plan or an incomplete ship implementation plan should not be considered as "clear grounds" for a more detailed inspection.

c. Resolution MEPC.321(74) “2019 Guidelines for Port State Control under MARPOL Annex VI Chapter 3

The document includes guidance on:

- Clear grounds to conduct a more detailed inspection;
- Items to be verified during a more detailed inspection;
- Detainable deficiencies.