Bunker Delivery Notes for Low-Flashpoint Fuel and Gas Fuel, and Related Regulations

Object of Amendment

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R

Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems

Rules for Marine Engine Emission Verification

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R

Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems

Guidance for Marine Engine Emission Verification

Reason for Amendment

Regulation 14 of MARPOL Annex VI provides for an upper limit on the sulphur content of fuel oil used on ships in order to prevent air pollution due to sulphur oxides emitted from ships. This regulation has already been incorporated into the NK Rules. Furthermore, Regulation 18 of MARPOL Annex VI requires that, when fuel oil that does not comply with Regulation 14 is supplied in a country that is a party to MARPOL, said party is to inform to the IMO.

As a result of an investigation into such reports, the IMO found that some fuel oils had flashpoints lower than those specified in SOLAS, which raised some safety concerns. As a result of a discussion on the matter, the IMO adopted resolution MSC.520(106) to amend SOLAS at the 106th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC106) held in November 2022. This amendment enhances safety in the use of fuel oil, and requires from 1 January 2026 that declarations signed and certified by oil fuel suppliers indicating that the fuel to be supplied is in conformity with SOLAS be provided and information on fuel oil flashpoint be included in bunker delivery notes.

In addition, the IMO adopted resolution MEPC.385(81) to amend MARPOL Annex VI at the 81st session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC81) held in March 2024. This amendment clarifies the information to be included on the bunker delivery notes for low-flashpoint fuels and gas fuels.

Lastly, the IMO also adopted MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.18 to amend provisions related to methods of obtaining and retaining representative samples of fuel oil and resolution MEPC.386(81) to amend provisions related to the standards for determining non-compliance with the maximum allowable limit of nitrogen oxide emissions (Tier III).

Accordingly, relevant requirements are amended based on the above-mentioned IMO resolutions and circular.

Outline of Amendment

The outline of the amendments are as follows.

(1) Amends Part R of the Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships to stipulate that information on fuel oil flashpoint is to be included on bunker delivery notes and that declarations signed and certified by oil fuel suppliers indicating that the fuel oil to be supplied is in conformity with SOLAS are to be provided prior to the supply of fuel

oil.

- (2) Amends the Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems with regard to the information to be recorded on the bunker delivery notes for low-flashpoint fuels or gas fuels to specify that density is to be indicated together with the temperature, and that the information of sulphur content in fuel oil is to be clarified.
- (3) Amends the numbering of the IMO document referenced as specifying the method for obtaining and retaining "representative samples of fuel oil" attached to bunker delivery notes.
- (4) Amends the numbering of the IMO document referenced as specifying the standards for determining that the maximum allowable limit of nitrogen oxide emissions (Tier III) cannot be met when replacing diesel engines.

Effective Date and application

- (1) Part R of the Rules and Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Effective date of this draft amendment is 1 January 2026.
- (2) Rules and Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems, Rules and Guidance for Marine Engine Emission Verification
 Effective date of this draft amendment is 1 August 2025.

An asterisk (*) after the title of a requirement indicates that there is also relevant information in the corresponding Guidance.

ID: DD24-22

Amended	Original	Remark
Part R FIRE PROTECTION, DETECTION AND EXTINCTION	Part R FIRE PROTECTION, DETECTION AND EXTINCTION	MSC.520(106) Para.2
Chapter 3 DEFINITIONS	Chapter 3 DEFINITIONS	2.1.1(5), Part 1 of the Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention
3.2 Definitions	3.2 Definitions	Systems: "Oil fuel" means any oil used as
3.2.57 Oil Fuel	(Newly added)	fuel in connection with the propulsion and
Oil fuel is oil defined in 2.1.1(5), Part 1 of the Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems.		auxiliary machinery of the ship in which such oil is carried. This is related to MARPOL Annex. "Fuel oil" related to MARPOL Annex VI is defined on page 5/14.

Amended	Original	Remark
Chapter 4 PROBABILITY OF IGNITION	Chapter 4 PROBABILITY OF IGNITION	
4.2 Arrangements for Oil Fuel, Lubrication Oil and Other Flammable Oils	4.2 Arrangements for Oil Fuel, Lubrication Oil and Other Flammable Oils	
4.2.1 Limitations in the Use of Oils as Fuel*	4.2.1 Limitations in the Use of Oils as Fuel*	
The following limitations are to apply to the use of oil as	The following limitations are to apply to the use of oil as	
fuel:	fuel:	
((1) to (5) are omitted.)	((1) to (5) are omitted.)	
(6) Ships carrying oil fuel are, prior to bunkering, to be	(Newly added)	MSC.520(106)
provided with a declaration signed and certified by the		Para.4
oil fuel supplier's representative, that the oil fuel to be		Para.4
supplied is in conformity with Regulation 4.2.1,		
Chapter II-2 of SOLAS, and the test method used for		
determining the flashpoint. A bunker delivery note for		
the oil fuel delivered to the ship is to contain either the		
flashpoint specified in accordance with standards		
acceptable to the <i>IMO</i> , or a statement that the		
flashpoint has been measured at or above 70 °C. (7) Fuel oil is not to be heated to the temperature within	(6) Fuel oil is not to be heated to the temperature within	
$(\underline{7})$ Fuel oil is not to be heated to the temperature within 10 °C below the flash point of the fuel oil in the oil	10° C below the flash point of the fuel oil in the oil	
tanks, unless considered appropriate by the Society.	tanks, unless considered appropriate by the Society.	
tanks, unless considered appropriate by the society.	tanks, unless considered appropriate by the Society.	
The effective date of the amendment is according	to EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION (A)	

Amended	Original	Remark
RULES FOR MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION SYSTEMS	RULES FOR MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION SYSTEMS	
Part 8 EQUIPMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS	Part 8 EQUIPMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS	
Chapter 1 GENERAL	Chapter 1 GENERAL	
1.1 General	1.1 General	
 1.1.2 Terminology (Regulation 2, 13, 14 and 16 of Annex VI and 1.3, 4.1, 4.3.9 and 4.4.8 of NOx Technical Code)* For the purpose of the requirements in this Part, the following definitions apply unless specified otherwise in Chapters 2 or 3: ((1) to (17) are omitted.) (18) "Fuel oil" means any fuel delivered to and intended for use on board a ship. 	 1.1.2 Terminology (Regulation 2, 13, 14 and 16 of Annex VI and 1.3, 4.1, 4.3.9 and 4.4.8 of NOx Technical Code)* For the purpose of the requirements in this Part, the following definitions apply unless specified otherwise in Chapters 2 or 3: ((1) to (17) are omitted.) (18) "Fuel oil" means any fuel delivered to and intended for combustion purposes for propulsion or operation on board a ship, including gas, distillate and residual fuels. 	MEPC.385(81) Para.1
((19) to (27) are omitted.) (28) "Gas fuel" means a fuel oil with a vapour pressure exceeding 0.28 MPa absolute at a temperature of 37.8 °C.	((19) to (27) are omitted.) (Newly added)	MEPC.385(81) Para.2

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Amended	Original	Remark
1.2 General Requirement	1.2 General Requirement	
 1.2.3 Delivery of Fuel Oil and Bunker Delivery Notes (Regulation 18 of Annex VI)* 1 Except where it may otherwise be accepted in accordance with Regulations 18.2.1 to 18.2.5 of Annex VI, fuel oil for use on board ships is to meet the following (1) and (2) requirements: ((1) is omitted.) (2) The fuel oil derived by methods other than petroleum refining is not: ((a) to (f) are omitted.) 2 For each ship deemed necessary by the Society, including mobile offshore drilling unit and other platform, details of fuel oil for combustion purposes delivered to and used on board is to be recorded by means of a bunker delivery note. The bunker delivery note is to be retained on board the ship for a period of 3 years after the fuel oil has been delivered on board. The bunker delivery note is to be kept on board the ship in such a place as to be readily available for inspection at all reasonable times. 3 The bunker delivery note referred to -2 above is to contain at least the information specified in the following (1) and (2): (1) least the information specified in Appendix V to Annex VI. (2) For low-flashpoint fuel or gas fuel delivered to and used on board that ship, least the information specified in items 1 to 6 of appendix V to Annex VI, the density as determined by a test method appropriate 	 1.2.3 Delivery of Fuel Oil and Bunker Delivery Notes (Regulation 18 of Annex VI)* 1 Except where it may otherwise be accepted in accordance with Regulations 18.2.1 to 18.2.5 of Annex VI, fuel oil for combustion purposes delivered to and used on board ships is to meet the following (1) and (2) requirements: ((1) is omitted.) (2) The fuel oil derived by methods other than petroleum refining is not: ((a) to (f) are omitted.) 2 For each ship deemed necessary by the Society, including mobile offshore drilling unit and other platform, details of fuel oil for combustion purposes delivered to and used on board is to be recorded by means of a bunker delivery note. The bunker delivery note is to be retained on board the ship for a period of 3 years after the fuel oil has been delivered on board. The bunker delivery note is to be kept on board the ship in such a place as to be readily available for inspection at all reasonable times. 3 The bunker delivery note referred to -2 above is to contain at least the information specified in Appendix V to Annex VI. 	MEPC.385(81) Para.5 MEPC.385(81) Para.6 "Fuel oil for combustion purpose" is amended to "Fuel oil". NK Rules need not be revised. MEPC.385(81) Para.8

(Bunker Delivery Notes for Low-F	lashpoint Fuel and Gas Fuel, and Related Regulations)	
Amended	Original	Remark
to the fuel type together with the associated temperature; and a declaration signed and certified by the fuel oil supplier's representative that the fuel oil is in conformity with regulation 18.3 of Annex VI. In addition the sulphur content of a low-flashpoint fuel or a gas fuel delivered to a ship specifically for use on board that ship shall be documented on the bunker delivery note by the supplier in terms of either the actual value as determined by a test method appropriate to the fuel type or, with the agreement of the appropriate authority at the port of supply, a statement that the sulphur content, when tested by such a method, is less than 0.001% m/m. 4 The bunker delivery note referred to in -2 is to be accompanied by a representative sample of the fuel oil delivered obtained in a way deemed appropriate by the Society. The sample is to be sealed and signed by the supplier's representative and the master or officer in charge of the bunker operation on completion of bunkering operations and retained on board the ship in a way deemed appropriate by the Society until the fuel oil is substantially consumed, but in any case for a period of not less than 12 months from the time of delivery. 5 The requirements specified in -1 to -4 above do not apply to coal in its solid form or nuclear fuels. The requirements specified in -3(1) and -4 above do not apply to a low-flashpoint fuel or a gas fuel.	4 The bunker delivery note referred to in -3 is to be accompanied by a representative sample of the fuel oil delivered obtained in a way deemed appropriate by the Society. The sample is to be sealed and signed by the supplier's representative and the master or officer in charge of the bunker operation on completion of bunkering operations and retained on board the ship in a way deemed appropriate by the Society until the fuel oil is substantially consumed, but in any case for a period of not less than 12 months from the time of delivery. 5 The requirements specified in -1 to -4 above do not apply to coal in its solid form or nuclear fuels. The requirements specified in -2 to -4 above do not apply to gas fuels such as liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas. The sulphur content of gas fuels delivered to a ship specifically for combustion purposes on board that ship is to be documented by the supplier.	Handling when the sulphur concentration is below the detection limit is clarified. MEPC.385(81) Para.7

Amended	Original	Remark
Chapter 2 EQUIPMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS	Chapter 2 EQUIPMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS	ACMANIA.
2.1 Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) (Regulation 13 of Annex VI)	2.1 Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) (Regulation 13 of Annex VI)	
 2.1.2 Requirements for Installation* On each diesel engine, the exhaust gas cleaning system to reduce NOx emissions specified in the approved Technical File is to be installed, otherwise the equivalent method to reduce NOx emissions deemed appropriate by the Society is to be carried out in order to keep the NOx emission measured and calculated in accordance with the following -2 within the limits specified in Tables 8-1(a) to (c) at the number of maximum continuous revolutions (referred to in 2.1.24, Part A, Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships, hereinafter the same) of the diesel engine. Diesel engines which are installed on ships at beginning stage of construction on or after 1 January 2000 ((a) to (d) are omitted.) Major conversions of diesel engines performed on or after 1 January 2000 When replacing a diesel engine with a non-identical diesel engine or when installing an additional diesel engine, the standards in force at the time of the replacement or addition of the diesel engine are to be applied. For this regulation, the installation of a marine diesel engine replacing a steam system shall 	 2.1.2 Requirements for Installation* On each diesel engine, the exhaust gas cleaning system to reduce NOx emissions specified in the approved Technical File is to be installed, otherwise the equivalent method to reduce NOx emissions deemed appropriate by the Society is to be carried out in order to keep the NOx emission measured and calculated in accordance with the following -2 within the limits specified in Tables 8-1(a) to (c) at the number of maximum continuous revolutions (referred to in 2.1.24, Part A of the Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel ships, hereinafter the same) of the diesel engine. Diesel engines which are installed on ships at beginning stage of construction on or after 1 January 2000 ((a) to (d) are omitted.) Major conversions of diesel engines performed on or after 1 January 2000 When replacing a diesel engine with a non-identical diesel engine or when installing an additional diesel engine, the standards in force at the time of the replacement or addition of the diesel engine are to be applied. However, for engine replacements, if the Administration deems it impossible for such a 	MEPC.385(81) Para.3

Amended	Original	Remark
be considered a replacement engine. For engine replacements, if the Administration deems it impossible for such a replacement diesel engine to meet the standards set forth in Table 8-1(c) , then that replacement diesel engine is to meet the standards set forth in Table 8-1(b) . The criteria for determining when it is not possible for a replacement engine to meet the standards in Table 8-1(c) are to be in accordance with relevant guidelines established by the <i>IMO</i> .	engine is to meet the standards set forth in Table 8-1(b) . The criteria for determining when it is not possible for a replacement engine to meet the standards in Table 8-1(c) are to be in accordance with relevant guidelines established by the <i>IMO</i> .	
2.2 Sulphur Oxides (SOx) and Particulate Matter (Regulation 14 of Annex VI)	2.2 Sulphur Oxides (SOx) and Particulate Matter (Regulation14 of Annex VI)	
2.2.2 In-use fuel oil sampling points* 3 The requirements specified in -1 and -2 above are not applicable to a fuel oil service system used for a low-flashpoint fuel or a gas fuel.	2.2.2 In-use fuel oil sampling points* 3 The requirements specified in -1 and -2 above are not applicable to fuel oil service systems for low-flashpoint fuels for combustion purposes for propulsion or operation on board the ship.	MEPC.385(81) Para.4

Amended	Original	Remark
RULES FOR MARINE ENGINE EMISSION	RULES FOR MARINE ENGINE EMISSION	
VERIFICATION	VERIFICATION	
Chapter 2 EMISSION VERIFICATION, ETC.	Chapter 2 EMISSION VERIFICATION, ETC.	
2.2 Emission Verification and Approval of Technical File of the Engine	2.2 Emission Verification and Approval of Technical File of the Engine	
2.2.2 Maximum Allowable NOx Emission Limits*	2.2.2 Maximum Allowable NOx Emission Limits*	
1 On each engine, the exhaust gas cleaning system to	1 On each engine, the exhaust gas cleaning system to	
reduce NOx emissions specified in the approved Technical	reduce NOx emissions specified in the approved Technical	
File is to be installed, otherwise the equivalent method to	File is to be installed, otherwise the equivalent method to	
reduce NOx emissions deemed appropriate by the Society is	reduce NOx emissions deemed appropriate by the Society is	
to be carried out in order to keep the NOx emission measured	to be carried out in order to keep the NOx emission measured	
and calculated in accordance with the following -2 within the	and calculated in accordance with the following -2 within the	
limits specified in Tables 1.1(a) to 1.1(c) at the number of	limits specified in Table 1.1(a) to 1.1(c) at the number of	
maximum continuous revolutions (referred to in 2.1.24, Part A of the Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel	maximum continuous revolutions (referred to in 2.1.24, Part A of the Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel	
Ships, hereinafter the same) of the engine.	ships, hereinafter the same) of the engine.	
(1) Engines which are installed on ships at beginning stage of construction on or after 1 January 2000	(1) Engines which are installed on ships at beginning stage of construction on or after 1 January 2000	
((a) to (d) are omitted.) (2) Major conversions of diesel engines performed on or	((a) to (d) are omitted.) (2) Major conversions of diesel engines performed on or	
after 1 January 2000	after 1 January 2000	MEPC.385(81)
When replacing a diesel engine with a non-identical	When replacing a diesel engine with a non-identical	Para.3
diesel engine or when installing an additional diesel	diesel engine or when installing an additional diesel	
engine, the standards in force at the time of the	engine, the standards in force at the time of the	
replacement or addition of the diesel engine are to be	replacement or addition of the diesel engine are to be	

Amended	Original	Remark
applied. For this regulation, the installation of a marine diesel engine replacing a steam system shall be considered a replacement engine. For engine replacements, if the Administration deems it impossible for such a replacement diesel engine to meet the standards set forth in Table 8-1(c) , then that replacement diesel engine is to meet the standards set forth in Table 8-1(b) . The criteria for determining when it is not possible for a replacement engine to meet the standards in Table 8-1(c) are to be in accordance with relevant guidelines established by the <i>IMO</i> .	applied. However, for engine replacements, if the Administration deems it impossible for such a replacement diesel engine to meet the standards set forth in Table 8-1(c) , then that replacement diesel engine is to meet the standards set forth in Table 8-1(b) . The criteria for determining when it is not possible for a replacement engine to meet the standards in Table 8-1(c) are to be in accordance with relevant guidelines established by the <i>IMO</i> .	
The effective date of the amendment is according to EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION (B)		

Amended	Original	Remark
GUIDANCE FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS	GUIDANCE FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS	
Part R FIRE PROTECTION, DETECTION AND EXTINCTION	Part R FIRE PROTECTION, DETECTION AND EXTINCTION	
R4 PROBABILITY OF IGNITION	R4 PROBABILITY OF IGNITION	
R4.2 Arrangements for Oil Fuel, Lubrication Oil and Other Flammable Oils	R4.2 Arrangements for Oil Fuel, Lubrication Oil and Other Flammable Oils	
R4.2.1 Limitations in the Use of Oils as Fuel 3 The wording "standards acceptable to the IMO" specified in 4.2.1(6), Part R of the Rules means ISO 2719:2016-Determination of flash point—Pensky-Martens closed cup method, Procedure A (for Distillate Fuels) or Procedure B (for Residual Fuels). 4 The information specified in 4.2.1(6), Part R of the Rules may be included in the bunker delivery note according to 1.3.2-1(3)(a), Part 2 of the Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems.	R4.2.1 Limitations in the Use of Oils as Fuel (Newly added) (Newly added)	MSC.520(106) Para.4 MSC.520(106) Para.4
The effective date of the amendment is according t	to EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION (A)	

Amended	Original	Remark
GUIDANCE FOR MARINE POLLUTION	GUIDANCE FOR MARINE POLLUTION	
PREVENTION SYSTEMS	PREVENTION SYSTEMS	MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.18;
		MEPC 81 agreed to
Part 8 EQUIPMENT FOR THE	Part 8 EQUIPMENT FOR THE	revoke resolution
PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM	PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM	MEPC.182(59) when
SHIPS	SHIPS	this joint MSC-MEPC
		circular is issued.
Chapter 1 GENERAL	Chapter 1 GENERAL	
		Amendments
1.2 General Requirement	1.2 General Requirement	Those who develop a
•		process to keep track of
1.2.3 Delivery of Fuel Oil and Bunker Delivery Notes	1.2.3 Delivery of Fuel Oil and Bunker Delivery Notes	samples was changed
(Regulation 18 of Annex VI)	(Regulation 18 of Annex VI)	from ship's master to
6 The wording "obtained in a way deemed appropriate by the Society" and "retained on board the ship in a way	6 The wording "obtained in a way deemed appropriate by the Society" and "retained on board the ship in a way	company.
deemed appropriate by the Society" in 1.2.3-4, Part 8 of the	deemed appropriate by the Society" in 1.2.3-4, Part 8 of the	Minimum amount of
Rules mean that to be obtained in accordance with <u>MSC-</u>	Rules mean that to be obtained in accordance with <u>IMO</u>	sample was changed
MEPC.2/Circ.18 and to be retained on board the ship in	resolution MEPC.182(59) and to be retained on board the ship	from 400 mL to 600
accordance with the circular.	in accordance with the resolution accompanied with the label	mL.
	of the sample required in the resolution respectively.	• Procedures when
		sample send to
		laboratory to measure
		flash point were added.

Amended	Original	Remark
Chapter 2 EQUIPMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS	Chapter 2 EQUIPMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS	
2.1 Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) (Regulation 13 of Annex VI)	2.1 Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) (Regulation13 of Annex VI)	MEPC.386(81)
 2.1.2 Requirements for Installation 1 Major conversion of a diesel engine is to be accordance with following: ((1) is omitted.) (2) The wording "guidelines established by the IMO" specified in 2.1.2-1(2), Part 8 of the Rules means the "2024 Guidelines as Required by Regulation 13.2.2 of MARPOL ANNEX VI in Respect of Non-Identical Replacement Engines not Required to Meet the Tier III Limit (IMO Res.MEPC.386(81), as amended)". ((3) is omitted.) 		Amendments • Points to be taken into account when replacing steam systems with Tier II engine were added.

Amended	Original	Remark
GUIDANCE FOR MARINE ENGINE EMISSION VERIFICATION	GUIDANCE FOR MARINE ENGINE EMISSION VERIFICATION	
Chapter 2 EMISSION VERIFICATION, ETC.	Chapter 2 EMISSION VERIFICATION, ETC.	
2.2 Emission Verification and Approval of Technical File of the Engine	2.2 Emission Verification and Approval of Technical File of the Engine	
 2.2.2 Maximum Allowable NOx Emission Limits 1 Major conversion of an engine is to be accordance with following: ((1) is omitted.) (2) The wording "guidelines established by the IMO" specified in 2.2.2-1(2) of the Rules means the "2024 Guidelines as Required by Regulation 13.2.2 of MARPOL ANNEX VI in Respect of Non-Identical Replacement Engines not Required to Meet the Tier III Limit (IMO Res. MEPC.386(81), as amended)". ((3) is omitted.) 	 2.2.2 Maximum Allowable NOx Emission Limits 1 Major conversion of an engine is to be accordance with following: ((1) is omitted.) (2) The wording "guidelines established by the IMO" specified in 2.2.2-1(2) of the Rules means the "2013 Guidelines as Required by Regulation 13.2.2 of MARPOL ANNEX VI in Respect of Non-Identical Replacement Engines not Required to Meet the Tier III Limit (IMO Res. MEPC.230(65), as amended)". ((3) is omitted.) 	MEPC.386(81)
The effective date of the amendment is according	to EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION (B)	

Amended	Original	Remark
EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION (A)		
1. Effective date of this amendment is 1 January 2026.		
EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION (B)		
1. Effective date of this amendment is 1 August 2025.		