

	Information Notice 2018-008
	DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)
	Outcome of MEPC.73 & new regulatory requirements in 2019

This is to inform ADOMS clients and stakeholders in respect of the outcome of the 73rd Session of the International Maritime Organizations Marine Environment Protection Committee from the 22nd to the 26th of October and new regulatory requirements from 2019 onwards, including amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention (2006).

ADOMS wishes to inform the esteemed addressees as follows:

I. MEPC.73 Outcomes

- Marine Fuel Oil Sulphur Content Limitation: The carriage ban for Fuel Oil exceeding 0.5% content in Sulphur unless vessel concerned are equipped with an exhaust gas treatment system applicable from 1st of January 2020 has been adopted by the MEPC. The content limit of 0.1% for operations within relevant emissions controlled areas has been endorsed. All operators should ensure their abilities to follow the requirements of the regulations from the first day of entry into force, in close cooperation with their fuel suppliers.
 → Reference is made to **MEPC.305.(73)** and **MEPC.1/Circ.878**
- Strengthening of EEDI requirements (incl. early implementation): For certain vessel types an increase of EEDI requirements, respectively advancing the implementation of the application have been discussed, but no conclusion could be reached at MEPC. Nevertheless it is strongly expected for the discussed amendments to the applicable instruments concerned to be further elaborated and yet very likely to be adopted before 2021. Particularly clients in negotiations for newbuilding contracts should closely monitor further developments.
 → Reference is made to **MEPC.73/19 (5.80 ff.)**
- Draft regulations for MARPOL related Electronic (Garbage & Ballast Water) Record Books: Clients and Stakeholders are encouraged to monitor further developments.
 → Reference is made to **MEPC.1/Circ.879** and **MEPC.73/19 (11.17 ff. and related Annex 15)** and also **ADOMS Information Notice No. 2018-007**
- Mandatory Data Collection for Fuel Oil Consumption aboard Ships (IMO DCS Scheme): From the 1st of January 2019 vessels above 5000 GRT will have to collect and report data on fuel oil consumption, as implemented by the SEEMP. Managers should seek relevant guidance by their ROs or ADOMS authorized, independent verifiers.
 → Reference is made to **ADOMS Information Notice No. 2018-003 Rev. 2**
- Ballast Water Management Guidelines: Amendments to the Guidelines for Ballast Water Management and the Development of Ballast Water Management Plans were adopted. This includes system commissioning testing, design limitations and contingency measures in ballast water management plans. Clients and Stakeholders are encouraged to consult the references provided.
 → Reference is made to **Resolution MEPC.306(73); Resolution MEPC.127(53) [= G4], as amended**, and also **ADOMS Information Notice No. 2016-003 Rev. 5**

- New Guidelines for the carriage of energy-rich fuels and their blends, e.g. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and for the discharge of exhaust gas recirculation bleed-off water:
→ Reference is made to **MEPC.1/Circ.879** and **Resolution MEPC.307(73)**
- Revised unified Interpretations of MARPOL Annex VI:
→ Reference is made to **MEPC.1/Circ.795/Rev.3**
- IMO's Action Plan to address Marine Plastic Litter (from Ships):
→ Reference is made to Resolution **MEPC.310(73)**
- Miscellaneous: Draft amendments to the BCH and IBC code were referred to MEPC.74 (scheduled May 2019) for adoption. Draft Amendments reg. exhaust gas cleaning certification (SCR-requirements) within the NOx tech. code were referred to MEPC.74 for adoption as well. Clients and stakeholders are invited to monitor further developments.
→ Reference is made to **MEPC.73/19, Annexes 4, 11 and 12**
- Some outcomes relevant to only few particular interests were omitted in this document. This relates to matters pertaining to floating production, storage and offloading facilities and units, cargo residues and tank washings, following-up of IMO greenhouse gas research and reduction and ship energy efficiency design index application and calculations. Potentially interested parties are invited to monitor further developments.
→ Reference is made to **MEPC.73/19, Annexes 5, 7, 9, 13 and 14**
- For a full overview on all items discussed, please refer to the Committees Final Report.
→ Reference is made to **MEPC.73/19** and summary outcome, as referred. (<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/MeetingSummaries/MEPC/Pages/MEPC-73rd-session.aspx>)
- As usual, insofar as technical systems and/or installations are concerned, operators, managers and suppliers are advised to seek guidance, if required, by the relevant ADOMS Recognized Organizations and Recognized Security Organizations.
See also: <https://www.abregistry.ag/technical-services/recognised-organisation>

II. Amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention:

- From 2019 on shipboard bullying and harassment will be mentioned Guideline B4.3.1 – Provisions on occupational accidents, injuries and diseases. Amendments to Reg. 5.1 will allow for short-term certificates of compliance to be issued after successful inspection.
→ Reference is made to the **MLC Amendments of 2016**, available from: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_488452.pdf
- Employment agreements must remain in effect whilst seafarers are held captive, whether on or off the vessel and also beyond the regular expiry of their contract, including the entitlement for repatriation. The entry into force of these provisions is expected by 2021.
→ Reference is made to the Text of the **amendments adopted on 27 April 2018** by the Third meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee of the MLC, available from: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_627161.pdf

III. Port State Control pre-arrival checklist for Antigua and Barbuda registered vessels calling to the U.S.:

- Following an evaluation of statistical data referring to Antigua and Barbuda flagged vessel's performance in respect of Port State Control Inspection in the United States, ADOMS will implement a compulsory pre-arrival inspection checklist as mandatory for requirement for all its registered vessels. The expected date for compulsory implementation is the 1st of February 2019. Further details will be communicated in a designated Circular, containing the checklist as an annex, before January 2019.

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