

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
74th session  
Agenda item 5

MEPC 74/5/21  
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## AIR POLLUTION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### MEPC Circular related to the enhanced implementation of regulation 18 of MARPOL Annex VI

Submitted by Bahamas, India, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Panama, United States,  
BIMCO, ICS, INTERCARGO and INTERTANKO

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document provides a draft MEPC circular that the Committee may consider, in conjunction with proposals made in document MEPC 74/5/20, with regard to reporting of data in the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) module related to MARPOL Annex VI

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* 1

*Output:* 1.17

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 6

*Related document:* MEPC 74/5/20

#### Introduction

1 In response to the invitation by MEPC 73 to submit proposals on how to enhance the implementation of regulation 18 of MARPOL Annex VI, in particular on fuel oil quality and reporting of non-availability of compliant fuel oils (MEPC 73/19, paragraphs 5.30 to 5.32), the co-sponsors have submitted a fully developed proposal for a data collection and analysis plan in document MEPC 74/5/20.

2 In the above-mentioned document, the co-sponsors urge the Committee to agree to a data collection and analysis plan (hereafter, the Plan) associated with the enhancement of implementation of regulation 18 of MARPOL Annex VI. The Plan would consist of enhancements to the existing MARPOL Annex VI module of the GISIS database, expansion of the data collection provisions to States not Party to MARPOL Annex VI, and carrying out periodic analysis of the data. The annex of document MEPC 74/5/20 contains an outline of the proposed Plan.

3 In view of the 1 January 2020 effective date for the 0.50% m/m sulphur limit of regulation 14.1.3 of MARPOL Annex VI, it will be very useful for MEPC 75 and MEPC 76 in 2020 to be informed with reports of data analysis to make a clear assessment of implementation of the regulation.

4 Consequently, it is proposed to issue an MEPC circular to urge immediate reporting by all Member States (including non-Parties to MARPOL Annex VI), and to encourage cooperation between Member States and other organizations to facilitate input of voluntary data.

5 The annex to this document contains a proposed draft text for an MEPC circular for the Committee's consideration.

**Action requested of the Committee**

6 The Committee is invited to consider the proposal in paragraph 5 above and draft MEPC circular set out in the annex to the document, and take action as appropriate.

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**ANNEX**

**DRAFT MEPC CIRCULAR**

**REPORTING OF DATA RELATED TO FUEL OIL AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY IN GISIS  
TO PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE 0.50% M/M SULPHUR LIMIT UNDER MARPOL ANNEX VI**

- 1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee at its seventieth session agreed to retain 1 January 2020 as the effective date of implementation for the 0.50% m/m sulphur limit for fuel oil used on board ships operating outside emission control areas designated for the control of sulphur oxides.
- 2 The Marine Environment Protection Committee at its seventy-third session adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex VI prohibiting the carriage of non-compliant fuel oil for combustion purposes for propulsion or operation on board a ship by resolution MEPC.305(73) which is scheduled to enter into force on 1 March 2020.
- 3 The Marine Environment Protection Committee at its seventy-fourth session agreed to a strategy for the collection of data related to the availability and quality of fuel oil compliant with the 0.50% m/m sulphur limit and its analysis, with a view to strengthening and facilitating consistent implementation of regulation 14 and 18 of MARPOL Annex VI.
- 4 Having recognized the need for a full understanding of the effectiveness and impact on safe ship operation due to the implementation of the aforementioned regulations soon after their entry into force date, Member Governments are:
  - .1 urged to submit relevant data to the MARPOL Annex VI GISIS database as called for by MARPOL Annex VI, regulation 18; and
  - .2 invited to consider collaborating with third party entities where relevant and appropriate to enter voluntary data relating to fuel oil quality parameters while remaining responsible for the accuracy of data entered.

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