

MEMBER ALERT



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LOW SULFUR FUEL REQUIREMENTS FOR PORTS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Reference is made to Circular [44/15 of December 15, 2015, *The People's Republic of China: Designation of Emission Control Areas \(ECAs\)*](#), and Member Alert, [Emission Control Areas \(ECAs\) for the People's Republic of China: Port of Shanghai](#), dated March 03, 2016.

Your Managers draw Members' attention to China's emission control requirements and the approaching deadline for compliance. Ports within three key emission control areas; Pearl River Delta, Yangtze River Delta and the Bohai Sea, will be required to comply with a sulfur content requirement of 0.5% as of January 1, 2017. A summary of the compliance dates and requirements are reiterated here for reference.

Control measures

Relevant control measures can be summarized as follows:

- (1) As from January 1, 2016, all ships must strictly comply with the requirements on the emission of sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides and particulate matters under Chinese laws and regulations as set forth in Annex VI of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention. Local maritime authorities may require the ship to use fuel with a sulfur content of no more than 3.5% m/m during her berthing, and implement other measures more stringent than the current emission control standard. However, some ports may impose a limitation of 0.5% m/m by way of sulfur emission requirement. Members should check with their local agents in advance to determine which fuel standard will apply at individual ports to which they plan to call.
- (2) As from January 1, 2017, during the period of berthing at key ports (excluding 1 hour after anchorage and 1 hour before departure), the ship must use fuel with a sulfur content of no more than 0.5% m/m.
- (3) As from January 1, 2018, during the period of berthing at all ports within the ECAs (1 hour after anchorage and 1 hour before departure are excepted) whether at berth or not, the ship should use fuel with a sulfur content of no more than 0.5% m/m.
- (4) As from January 1, 2019, when entering the ECAs whether at berth or not, the ship should use fuel with a sulfur content of no more than 0.5% m/m.

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- (5) By December 31, 2019, evaluation of the effects of (1)-(4) above will be conducted to determine whether:
- (i) ships entering the ECAs should use fuel with a sulfur content of no more than 0.5% m/m;
 - (ii) the geographical area of ECAs should be enlarged; and
 - (iii) other further measures should be taken.