Establishment of Emission Control Areas in Chinese Coastal Waters

To: Shipowners, Ship Managers, Operators and Masters

Summary

This Note draws the attention of shipowners, ship managers, operators and masters on the announcement of the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China in relation to designating part of the coastal waters in the Pearl River Delta, Yangtze River Delta and the Bohai Rim waters as Emission Control Areas.

1. On 4 December 2015, the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China (MOT) announced the establishment of three emissions control areas (ECAs) in Pearl River Delta, Yangtze River Delta and Bohai Rim waters in order to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides and particulate matter from ships and to improve the air quality in the regions. The main control measures which will be implemented on and after 1 January 2016 in the ECAs are summarized below:

a. Starting from 1 January 2016, ships enter ECAs shall strictly comply with the requirements of Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention, i.e. ships shall use fuel oil with sulphur content not exceeding 3.5% m/m and engines installed on ocean going vessels built on or after 1.1.2011 shall meet NOx Tier II emission standard. Some core ports within the ECAs may require ships at berth to use fuel oil with sulphur content not exceeding 0.5% m/m. The “core ports” are:

i. Pearl River Delta: Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Zhuhai;

ii. Yangtze River Delta: Shanghai, Ningbo-Zhoushan, Suzhou and Nantong; and

iii. Bohai Rim: Tianjin, Qinhuangdao, Tangshan and Huanghua.
b. Starting from 1 January 2017, ships shall switch to use fuel oil with sulphur content not exceeding 0.5% while berthing (except for the first hour after arrival and the last hour prior to departure) in core ports inside ECAs.

c. Starting from 1 January 2018, the fuel switching at berth requirement will be extended to all the ports inside ECAs;

d. Starting from 1 January 2019, ships enter ECAs are required to use fuel oil with sulphur content not exceeding 0.5%; and

e. Ships may use shore power, clean fuel and exhaust gas treatment system as an alternative means to the above mentioned measures.


3. Shipowners, ship managers, operators and masters with ships calling ports inside the ECA waters are advised to note the requirements.

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