



Merchant Shipping Directorate



## HEAVY FUEL OIL BAN IN ARCTIC WATERS

### *Merchant Shipping Notice 184*

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,  
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

The Merchant Shipping Directorate wishes to draw the attention of all concerned to Resolution [MEPC.329\(76\)](#) introducing a prohibition on the use and carriage for use as fuel of heavy fuel oil (HFO) by ships in Arctic waters as from 1 July 2024. The prohibition will cover fuel oils having a density at 15°C higher than 900 kg/m<sup>3</sup> or a kinematic viscosity at 50°C higher than 180 mm<sup>2</sup>/s.

Ships subject to Regulation 12A of MARPOL Annex I (oil fuel tank protection) or Regulation 1.2.1 of Part II-A of the Polar Code may use and carry HFO until 1 July 2029. Ships engaged in securing the safety of ships, or in search and rescue operations, and ships dedicated to oil spill preparedness and response are not covered by the said Resolution.

Maltese ships entering Arctic waters on or after the said dates are hereby reminded to ensure compliance with the said requirements.<sup>i</sup>

Merchant Shipping Directorate

08 January 2024

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<sup>i</sup> Reference being made to the outcome and clarification drawn during MEPC 82 (MEPC 82/WP.1) concerning the prohibition of the use and carriage for use as fuel of HFO by ships in Arctic waters, adopted at MEPC 76 by resolution MEPC.329(76).