



Merchant Shipping Directorate



Transport Malta

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR THE SAMPLING OF FUEL OIL FOR DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH MARPOL ANNEX VI AND SOLAS CHAPTER II-2

Technical Notice MARPOL.17

*Notice to Ship-owners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognized Organizations*

The Directorate draws the attention of all concerned to [MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.18](#) containing updated Guidelines for the sampling of fuel oil for determination of compliance with MARPOL Annex VI and SOLAS Chapter II-2, and repealing the previous guidelines contained in Resolution MEPC.182(59).

For the purpose of the Guidelines, fuel oil is as defined in Regulation 2.1.14 of MARPOL Annex VI as any fuel delivered to and intended for use on board a ship. In accordance with Regulation 18.8.1 of MARPOL Annex VI, the bunker delivery note shall be accompanied by a representative sample of the fuel oil delivered. Such representative sample is the MARPOL Delivered Sample, as defined in regulation 2.1.22 of MARPOL Annex VI.

The updated Guidelines include important provisions for the increase in the required sample volume from 400ml to a minimum of 600ml, stricter sampling, handling and record keeping procedures.

MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.18 extends the use of the MARPOL Delivered Sample to be also available for checking the flashpoint requirement under SOLAS Regulation II-2/4.2.1, hence such changes ensures that sufficient material is available to perform both sulphur content and flashpoint testing under the respective requirements of both MARPOL and SOLAS.

The said Circular spells out the need for personnel undertaking sampling and the subsequent MARPOL Delivered Sample preparation to be familiar with the use of the equipment and the Guidelines. Furthermore, the sampling operation itself should be witnessed by representatives of both the ship and supplier. Given the importance of proper sampling and handling for effective compliance, it is imperative that the crew is familiarized with the proper sampling procedures, including the use of tamper proof containers, accurate labelling and secure onboard storage.

It is also important to highlight that the revised guidelines transfer responsibility for the tracking and storing of the MARPOL samples from the ship's master to the ship owner/manager, hence underscoring the importance of having proper fleet-wide procedures.

This Directorate advises all concerned to follow the said Guidelines as provided in the Annex to MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.18.

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