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MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 31-20

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: SOUTH KOREA -- AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT MEASURES

Date: 7 October 2020

South Korea’s *Special Act on Air Quality Improvement in Port and Other Areas* entered into force on 1 January 2020. It is part of an ongoing regional program to reduce air pollution through a phased implementation of ship emission requirements.

Operators are allowed to use Exhaust Gas Cleaning System (EGCS) to comply with International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) requirements (currently 0.50%) instead of using 0.10% sulphur fuel oil within the Emission Control Areas (ECAs). See Korean Register Technical Information 2020-ETC-06(E) for more information.

1 September 2020

The South Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) declared beginning 1 September 2020, ECAs in the following five ports and areas: Incheon; Pyeongtaek-Dangjin; Yeosu-Gwangyang; Busan; and Ulsan.

All vessels in the ECAs are required use fuel with a maximum sulphur content of 0.10% while berthing or anchoring. Ships must switch to compliant fuel within one hour of mooring/anchoring and burn compliant fuel until not more than one hour before departure.¹

The second part of this phase is a voluntary speed reduction program. When vessels voluntarily reduce their speed in the ECAs, they earn discounts at port. More information is available from the South Korean MOF, here.

1 January 2022

Starting 1 January 2022, all vessels will be required to use fuel with a maximum 0.10% sulphur content at all times while operating within the ECAs. Any fuel change-over operation must be completed prior to the entry into or commenced after exit from an ECA.

¹ The date, time, and position of vessels when fuel oil change-over operation is completed must be recorded in accordance with relevant, regional regulations.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.
The following links provide additional information on the South Korean air quality measures.

- Korean Register
- South Korean MOF
- DNV GL
- Gard

As a reminder, Republic of the Marshall Islands-flagged vessels must comply with local and regional regulations, as applicable.