

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 31-18

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

Subject: ENTIRE CHINESE COAST TO BECOME AN EMISSION CONTROL AREA, REQUIRING THE USE OF 0.5% SULPHUR FUEL OIL

Date: 19 December 2018

China Classification Society (CCS) has recently issued [Technical Notice 57](#), *Technical Notice on Implementation Plan for Marine Air Pollutant Emission Control Areas*.

Effective **01 January 2019**, China has designated its entire coastline¹ as an Emission Control Area (ECA), requiring the use of fuel oil with a maximum sulphur content of 0.5%. This regional ECA includes any areas within China territorial waters and applies to all ships that are sailing, anchoring, or working in the ECAs, excluding military ships, sporting ships, and fishing boats.

In addition to reviewing the requirements of CCS Technical Notice 57, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) urges all vessel operators transiting the area to liaise with their local agents to ensure compliance.

Starting 01 January 2019:

- The sulphur content of fuel oil used by ships entering the ECA must not exceed 0.50%;
- The sulphur content of marine fuel oil used by seagoing ships entering the inland ECAs must not exceed 0.50%; and
- Inland ships must use fuels in accordance with Chinese standards, either GB 252 or a new version which is expected to replace it.

Please also note that China will permit alternative methods of compliance, including the use of shore power, using clean energy, or exhaust gas scrubbers. More can be read in CCS Technical Notice 57, which is a continuation of tighter emissions regulations that China has divided into stages.

Importantly, the planned regulatory stages have changed from when they were first announced in 2015 and should be reexamined carefully.

¹ Waters under the jurisdiction of Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan are excluded from this requirement. The Administrator urges all RMI-flagged vessels transiting to China to monitor developments on a port-by-port basis through their ship agents.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.