

**Circular 121 / 2015****To: Vessel Owners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties****Subject: New Sulphur Emissions Control Regulations within Pearl River Delta, Chang Jiang Delta and Bohai Rim Waters****Date: 28 December 2015****Summary**

China's Ministry of Transport has published new regulations introducing sulphur (SO<sub>x</sub>) emission control requirements within three Ship Emission Control Areas (ECAs): Pearl River Delta (PRD), Chang Jiang Delta (CJD) and Bohai Rim (BR). These ECAs are not designated under MARPOL Annex VI.

The geographical boundaries of the three ECAs are shown in the images at the end of this Class News.

'Core ports' have been designated within them. These are: Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Shanghai, Ningbo-Zhoushan, Suzhou, Nantong, Tianjin, Qinhuangdao, Tangshan, and Huanghua.

(Note: Hong Kong waters and Macau waters are excluded from the Pearl River Delta ECA as they have their own requirements).

How the requirements will apply

The SO<sub>x</sub> emission controls will be implemented within the three ECAs in phases, starting with the core ports, and then covering all waters. According to the regulations, the timeline is as follows:

**From 1 January 2016**, there will be strict enforcement of the existing international conventions and domestic laws and regulations on sulphur oxides, particulate matter and nitrogen oxides. In addition, it has been officially indicated that the core ports within the Chang Jiang Delta ECA will have the option to introduce a 0.5% sulphur limit and/or other control measures, in view of the 2016 G-20 Summit being held on 4–5 September, 2016, control measures, in view of the 2016 G-20 Summit being held on 4–5 September, 2016, in the city of Hangzhou, Zhejiang. The ports within the other two ECAs will not be included.

Further information and guidance on implementing this aspect of the regulations, is expected to be published in the middle of 2016.

**From 1 January 2017**, vessels that are at berth in the core ports (except during the first hour after berthing, and the last hour before departing) must use fuel containing 0.5% sulphur or less.

**From 1 January 2018**, vessels that are at berth in all ports in the ECAs (except during the first hour after berthing, and the last hour before departing) must use fuel containing 0.5% sulphur or less.

**From 1 January 2019**, vessels entering the ECAs must use fuel containing 0.5% sulphur or less.

**Before 31 December 2019**, the Chinese authorities with a view to taking one or more of the following actions will carry out an assessment -

- Reducing the maximum sulphur content to 0.1% for vessels entering the ECAs
- Expanding the geographical size of the emission control areas
- Considering further control measures.

Alternative measures such as using shore power, clean energy and exhaust gas cleaning systems will be accepted.

Further details from the China MSA

Further details and guidance on implementing the regulations are expected from the China Ministry of Transport's Maritime Safety Administration (MSA).

The text of the new regulations (in Chinese only) has been issued China's Ministry of Transport

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