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MEPC.1/Circ.508  
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## **BUNKER DELIVERY NOTE AND FUEL OIL SAMPLING**

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its fifty-fourth session held from 20 to 24 March 2006, considered the provisions of regulation 18 on fuel oil quality of MARPOL Annex VI, recognizing that MARPOL Annex VI entered into force on 19 May 2005.

2 The Committee recalled that MARPOL Annex VI by regulation 18 places requirements on ship owners and fuel oil suppliers in respect of bunker delivery notes and representative samples of the fuel oil received and on Parties to the 1997 Protocol to regulate the bunker suppliers in their ports.

3 The Committee noted that regulation 18(3) states that details of fuel oil for combustion purposes delivered to and used onboard ships shall be recorded by means of a bunker delivery note as specified in appendix V to MARPOL Annex VI, which shall contain at least: name and IMO number of receiving ship, port, date of commencement of delivery, name, address and telephone number of marine fuel oil supplier, product name(s), quantity (metric tons), density at 15°C (kg/m<sup>3</sup>), sulphur content (% m/m) and a declaration signed and certified by the fuel oil supplier's representative that the fuel oil supplied is in conformity with regulation 14(1) or (4)(a) and regulation 18(1) of MARPOL Annex VI.

4 Regulation 18(6) of MARPOL Annex VI states that the bunker delivery note shall be accompanied by a representative sample of the fuel oil delivered, taking into account Guidelines for the Sampling of Fuel Oil for Determination of Compliance with Annex VI of MARPOL (available as IMO-1665E), adopted by resolution MEPC.96(47).

5 Regulation 18(7) of MARPOL Annex VI states, *inter alia*, that Parties to the 1997 Protocol undertake to ensure that appropriate authorities designated by them maintain a register of local fuel oil suppliers; and to require these local fuel oil suppliers to provide ships with bunker delivery notes and representative fuel oil samples as required by MARPOL Annex VI.

6 The Committee noted the concern expressed by several Members on problems relating to ships that cannot obtain the bunker delivery note and/or the representative sample in respect of fuel oils as delivered.

7 The Committee noted further that ships without the bunker delivery notes and the representative samples as called for by regulation 18 of MARPOL Annex VI may experience problems and possible delays in subsequent ports of call if subject to port State control by a Party to the 1997 Protocol.

8 The Committee agreed that by operating the principle of *no more favourable treatment*, ships flying the flag of States not Party to the 1997 Protocol are to comply with it as a condition for entry into port of a State Party to it.

9 Additionally, ships flying the flag of States which are Party to the 1997 Protocol which receive fuel oil bunkers in ports which are in States which are not Party to the 1997 Protocol nevertheless require the bunker delivery note and representative sample as required by regulation 18(3) and regulation 18(6).

10 The Committee agreed to urge all Member States, both Parties and non-Parties to the 1997 Protocol, to require fuel oil suppliers in their ports to comply with the requirements of regulation 18 of MARPOL Annex VI and resolution MEPC.96(47) and to raise awareness of the necessity to enhance implementation and enforcement of regulation 18 of MARPOL Annex VI.

11 The Committee invites all Member States to inform the Organization of their experiences and adopted procedures concerning fuel oil supplier registration schemes.

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