

***Notifications 202402  
Thursday, October 31, 2024***

### ***IMO updates fuel oil sampling guidelines***

***Dear Members:***

The 'MARPOL delivered sample' size has increased from 400ml to 600ml and must now also be available for checking the flashpoint requirements under SOLAS Regulation II-2/4.2.1.

#### **Safety of ships relating to the use of fuel oil**

The minimum 60 degrees Celsius ( °C) flashpoint limit in SOLAS Regulation II-2/4.2.1.1 is not new, but the regulations designed to prevent the supply of oil fuel in breach of this limit are. In November 2022, the IMO MSC 106 adopted amendments to SOLAS requiring bunker suppliers to provide ships with a declaration prior to bunkering, stating that the flashpoint of the actual oil fuel batch is in conformity with the flashpoint requirements of SOLAS. They also clarify that the required information “*may be included in the Bunker Delivery Note (BDN) according to MARPOL Annex VI/18*”. These SOLAS amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2026.

#### **Information to be included in the BDN**

Even though the SOLAS amendments have yet to take effect, the new flashpoint documentation requirements for suppliers became effective on 1 May 2024 in an amendment to MARPOL Annex VI. Hence, Appendix V of MARPOL Annex VI already requires the BDN to include information about the fuel oil’s flashpoint, which can be either the flashpoint value measured in °C or a general statement confirming that flashpoint has been measured at or above 70 °C.

#### **New sampling guidelines**

To support the regulatory changes, and to account for situations in which oil fuel with a flashpoint of less than 60 °C has been delivered, the IMO has published a circular, MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.18, updating its fuel oil sampling guidelines. The new circular revokes the previous MEPC Resolution 182(59), the 2009 Guidelines for the safe taking of the ‘MARPOL delivered sample’, and extend the use of this sample to include testing of the SOLAS flashpoint requirements.

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