



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS



DEPARTMENT
OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS

Circular No 27/2011

8nd August 2011

TEN 5.13.09
TEN 4.28.03.10

All Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships under the Cyprus flag

Recognised Organisations

Subject: Entry into force of new Chapter 9 , Special Requirements for the Use of carriage of Oil in the Antarctic Area, of Annex I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) as amended.

I refer to the above subject and wish to inform you that the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization, at its 60th session in March 2010, adopted by resolution MEPC.189 (60) the new Chapter 9 of Annex I of the MARPOL Convention, entitled “Special Requirements for the Use of carriage of Oil in the Antarctic Area”, aiming to protect the Antarctic from pollution by heavy-grade oils. This Chapter entered into force on 1st August 2011. A copy of this resolution is attached for easy reference.

Regulation 43 prohibits both the carriage in bulk as cargo and the carriage and use as fuel, of: crude oils having a density, at 15°C, higher than 900 kg/m³; oils, other than crude oils, having a density, at 15°C, higher than 900 kg/m³ or a kinematic viscosity, at 50°C, higher than 180 mm²/s; or bitumen, tar and their emulsions.

This means, in effect, that ships entering the area, whether passenger or cargo ships, would need to switch to a different fuel type when transiting the Antarctic area, defined as “the sea area south of latitude 60°S”.

An exception is envisaged for vessels engaged in securing the safety of ships or in a search-and-rescue operation.

This Circular must be placed on board ships flying the Cyprus Flag.

The Masters, Owners, Managers and Representatives of ships flying the Cyprus flag, are advised to abide strictly by the new amendments.

S.S.Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping



CC: - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works

- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
- Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
- Cyprus Shipping Chamber
- Cyprus Union of Shipowners
- Cyprus Bar Association

ANNEX 10

**RESOLUTION MEPC.189(60)
Adopted on 26 March 2010**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEX OF THE PROTOCOL OF 1978 RELATING TO
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF
POLLUTION FROM SHIPS, 1973**

(Addition of a new chapter 9 to MARPOL Annex I)

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 38(a) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (the Committee) conferred upon it by international conventions for the prevention and control of marine pollution,

NOTING Article 16 of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the "1973 Convention") and article VI of the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the "1978 Protocol") which together specify the amendment procedure of the 1978 Protocol and confer upon the appropriate body of the Organization the function of considering and adopting amendments to the 1973 Convention, as modified by the 1978 Protocol (MARPOL 73/78),

HAVING CONSIDERED draft amendments to Annex I of MARPOL 73/78,

1. ADOPTS, in accordance with Article 16(2)(d) of the 1973 Convention, the amendments to Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 concerning the addition of a new chapter 9 on Special requirements for the use or carriage of oils in the Antarctic area;
2. DETERMINES, in accordance with Article 16(2)(f)(iii) of the 1973 Convention, that the amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 February 2011 unless, prior to that date, not less than one third of the Parties or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50 per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet, have communicated to the Organization their objection to the amendments;
3. INVITES the Parties to note that, in accordance with Article 16(2)(g)(ii) of the 1973 Convention, the said amendments shall enter into force on 1 August 2011 upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;
4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in conformity with Article 16(2)(e) of the 1973 Convention, to transmit to all Parties to MARPOL 73/78 certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the annex; and
5. REQUESTS FURTHER the Secretary-General to transmit to the Members of the Organization which are not Parties to MARPOL 73/78 copies of the present resolution and its annex.

ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO MARPOL ANNEX I TO ADD
CHAPTER 9 – SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OR
CARRIAGE OF OILS IN THE ANTARCTIC AREA**

A new chapter 9 is added as follows:

**"CHAPTER 9 – SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OR CARRIAGE OF OILS IN
THE ANTARCTIC AREA**

Regulation 43

Special requirements for the use or carriage of oils in the Antarctic area

1 With the exception of vessels engaged in securing the safety of ships or in a search and rescue operation, the carriage in bulk as cargo or carriage and use as fuel of the following:

- .1 crude oils having a density at 15°C higher than 900 kg/m³;
- .2 oils, other than crude oils, having a density at 15°C higher than 900 kg/m³ or a kinematic viscosity at 50°C higher than 180 mm²/s; or
- .3 bitumen, tar and their emulsions,

shall be prohibited in the Antarctic area, as defined in Annex I, regulation 1.11.7.

2 When prior operations have included the carriage or use of oils listed in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.3 of this regulation, the cleaning or flushing of tanks or pipelines is not required."
