



Hong Kong Legislative Council Approves Air Pollution Control Regulation

The Hong Kong Legislative Council has approved the “Air Pollution Control (Ocean Going Vessels) (Fuel at Berth) Regulation” which prohibits the use of certain fuels by vessels while they are at berth in Hong Kong waters.

The Regulation will effectively apply to vessels of 500 gross tons and above certificated under the SOLAS Convention. There are limited exclusions, such as for warships, vessels operating exclusively within river trade limits or entering Hong Kong waters solely for certain emergency situations.

‘At berth’ is broadly defined as “a place in the waters of Hong Kong at which the vessel is not underway.”

The Regulation directive requires for all vessels to switch to a marine fuel with **Sulphur content not exceeding 0.5% by weight**, liquefied natural gas or any other fuel approved by the air pollution control authority, (excluding the first hour after arrival at berth and the last hour prior to departure).

Certain exemptions are permitted, such as when an approved equivalent arrangement is being employed (i.e. exhaust gas cleaning system) or if compliance will pose a risk to the safety of the vessel. Application for approval of such exemptions shall be submitted in writing at least 14 days prior to the date on which the vessel is intended to enter Hong Kong waters.



Recordkeeping requirements are also prescribed to document fuel changeover operations, arrival and departure information in a log book. Such log entries and bunker delivery notes must be retained on board the vessel for a period of three years. **This Regulation will come into effect on 1 July 2015.**

For further information on this or other Loss Prevention topics please contact the Loss Prevention Department, Steamship Insurance Management Services Ltd.

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Acknowledgement: This Risk Alert is based upon information contained in the source publication detailed below.

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[Air Pollution Control Regulation](#)