

PORT CIRCULAR 7 OF 2016

To: All Shipping Agents
From: Captain of the Port
CC: Bunkering Superintendents
Date: 11 May 2016
Re: **SULPHUR CONTENT OF FUELS TO BE USED BY SHIPS CALLING AT GIBRALTAR**

Dear All

The GPA would like to remind all agents of the legislation regulating the sulphur content of fuels to be used by vessels calling at Gibraltar.

Guidance may be found in the Gibraltar Maritime Administration's Local Maritime Directive No 022, which explains the requirements of national and EU legislation:

SULPHUR CONTENT OF MARINE FUELS

References: *Motor Fuel Act (Composition and Content) Act 2001*
EC Directive 1999/32/EC as amended
Commission Recommendation (2009/1020/EU)

Essentially, ships are required to burn low sulphur fuel (not exceeding 0.1% by mass) while at anchor and alongside a berth, but it is not a requirement when transiting or proceeding through BGTW to/from anchor or berth.

If a ship is not using low sulphur fuel on arrival, then change over to low sulphur must be completed without delay after berthing or anchoring. Under normal circumstances, one hour is considered sufficient time to complete change over from one fuel type to another.

If a ship has no low sulphur fuel on board when she arrives in Gibraltar, arrangements must be made to take low sulphur bunkers immediately on anchoring or berthing and to changeover to low sulphur fuel.

Extracts from LMD 022:

3. Ships at berth, anchor or moored within BGTW (including the Port) shall not use marine fuels which have a sulphur content that exceeds 0.1% by mass. [Section 12K (1) of the Act]
This requirement does not apply to ships at berth, anchor or moored within BGTW , as follows :
a. For that period of time which is sufficient to allow the crew to complete any necessary fuel-changeover operation. These changeover operations should be completed as soon as possible after arrival at berth and as late as possible before departure from berth.

- b. Ships which, according to published timetables, are due to be at berth for less than two hours;***
c. Ships which switch off all engines and use shore-side electricity while at berth.
[Section 12K (2) of the Act]

Agents are to reference the above when replying to vessels who enquire about the use of low sulphur fuels when calling at Gibraltar.

For further information on this subject, please contact the Gibraltar Maritime Administration at:

Tel: (+350) 46862 / 47771 / 50424

Email: maritime.survey@gibraltar.gov.gi

LMDs may be downloaded from the GMA website: www.gibraltarship.com

BY ORDER OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE PORT