



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

## MIN 317 (M+F)

---

---

### **The Sulphur Content of Gas Oil and Marine Gas Oil Stipulated by Council Directive 1999/32/EC of 26 April 1999 as amended by Council Directive 2005/33/EC of 6 July 2005 - reminder of new requirements applying from 1 January 2008**

Notice to all Ship Owners, Masters, Harbour Masters, Fishing Vessels, Engine Manufactureres, Manufacturers of Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems and Monitoring Equipment and Fixed and Floating Platforms.

*This MIN expires Day Month Year 31 December 2008*

---

---

**PLEASE NOTE:-**

Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel and you should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

#### **Summary**

Council Directive 1999/32/EC relating to the reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels was amended by Council Directive 2005/33/EC on 6 July 2005. The amendments included changes in:

- The maximum sulphur content in Gas Oil and Marine Gas Oil
- Definitions of:
  - Heavy fuel oil
  - Gas oil
  - Marine diesel oil
  - Marine gas oil
- This MIN provides a brief reminder of the new requirements that apply from 1 January 2008.

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Council Directive 1999/32/EC relating to the reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels was amended by Council Directive 2005/33/EC on 6 July 2005.

1.2 The 1999 Directive gave instruction relating to the permissible sulphur content of gas oils and deadlines by which such contents must be attained. The amendments of 2005 substantially change the requirements relating to gas oils.

## **2. Article 4. Maximum Sulphur Content in Gas Oil and Marine Gas Oil**

2.1 As of 1 January 2008, gas oils and marine gas oil are not to be used within UK territory, if their sulphur content exceeds 0.1%, by mass.

2.2 In this context UK territory is taken to include the waters of the territorial sea, this requirement does not apply to the UK counter pollution zone.

## **3. Changes to Definitions**

3.1 The definitions outlined below are those which are accepted by the EU.

3.2 *Heavy Fuel Oil*: Any petroleum derived liquid fuel, excluding marine fuel, falling within CN code 2710 19 51 to 2710 19 69, or; any petroleum derived liquid fuel, other than gas oil as defined below, which by reason of its distillation limits, falls within the category of heavy oils intended for the use as fuel and of which less than 65% by volume (including losses) distils at 250°C by the ASTM D86 method. If the distillation cannot be determined by the ASTM D86 method, the petroleum product is likewise categorised as a heavy fuel oil

3.3 *Gas Oil*: Any petroleum derived liquid fuel, excluding marine fuel, falling within CN Code 2710 19 25, 2710 19 29, 2710 19 45 or 2710 19 49, or; any petroleum derived liquid fuel, excluding marine fuel, of which less than 65% by volume (including losses) distils at 250°C and of which at least 85% by volume (including losses) distils at 350°C by the ASTM D86 method.

Note: Diesel fuels as defined in Article 2(2) of Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 1998 relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Council Directive 93/12/EEC are excluded from this definition. Fuels used in non-road mobile machinery and agricultural tractors are also excluded from this definition.

3.4 *Marine Fuel*: Any petroleum derived liquid fuel intended for use in or on board a vessel, including fuels defined in ISO 8217.

3.5 *Marine Diesel Oil*: Any marine fuel which has a viscosity or density falling within the ranges of viscosity or density defined for DMB and DMC grades in Table 1 of ISO 8217.

3.6 *Marine Gas Oil*: Any marine fuel which has a viscosity or density falling within the ranges of viscosity or density defined for DMX and DMA grades in Table 1 of ISO 8217.

## More Information

Environmental Quality  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Bay 2/01  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9199  
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9204  
e-mail: [environment.environment@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:environment.environment@mcga.gov.uk)

General Inquiries: 24 Hour Infoline  
[infoline@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mcga.gov.uk)  
0870 600 6505

MCA Website Address: [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk)

File Ref: MS10/25/60

Published: December 2007  
Please note that all addresses and  
telephone numbers are correct at time of publishing

© Crown Copyright 2007

***Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas***

*Printed on material containing minimum 75% post-consumer waste paper*



*An executive agency of the  
Department for  
**Transport***

