

Republic of the Marshall Islands

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 30-18

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: GUIDANCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 0.50% SULPHUR LIMIT UNDER MARPOL ANNEX VI

Date: 30 November 2018

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), at its 70th session in October 2016, agreed to "01 January 2020" as the effective date of implementation for ships to comply with global 0.50% m/m sulphur content of fuel oil requirement in regulation 14.1.3 of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex VI and adopted IMO Resolution [MEPC.280\(70\)](#) affirming this decision.

In this context, the MEPC at its 73rd session in October 2018, agreed that Administrations should encourage ships flying their flag to develop implementation plans, outlining how the ship may prepare in order to comply with the required sulphur content limit of 0.50% by 01 January 2020. The plan could be complemented with a record of actions taken by the ship in order to be compliant by the applicable date. The MEPC approved guidance on ship implementation planning, issued under IMO Circular [MEPC.1/Circ.878](#), which also includes a template to assist with development of the plan, and supplemental guidance on tank cleaning and impacts on machinery systems.

While a ship implementation plan (SIP) is not a mandatory requirement, the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator strongly recommends that owners and operators utilize the ship implementation planning guidance in IMO Circular MEPC.1/Circ.878 as a tool to identify any potential fuel-related issues that may need to be addressed by the ship in preparation for and when implementing the 0.50% sulphur limit requirement.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.