



TECHNICAL CIRCULARS

TC No: 008/2020
19 May 2020

TO SHIP OWNER/SHIP MANAGER/INTERESTED PARTIES

Guidelines for Onboard Sampling for The Verification of The Sulphur Content of The Fuel Oil Used Onboard Ships

1. The IMO MEPC at its 74th session had approved circular **MEPC.1/Circ.864/Rev.1**, with the objective to establish an agreed method for sampling to enable effective control and enforcement of liquid fuel oil being used onboard ships.
2. Fuel oil samples should be obtained from a designated sampling points. Sampling points should fulfil the following conditions:
 - a) be easily and safely accessible;
 - b) take into account different fuel oil grades being used for the fuel oil combustion machinery item;
 - c) be downstream of the in-use fuel oil service tank;
 - d) be as close to the fuel oil combustion machinery as safely feasible taking into account the type of fuel oil, flow-rate, temperature, and pressure behind the selected sampling point;
 - e) be clearly marked for easy identification and described in either the piping diagram or other relevant documents;
 - f) each sampling point should be located in a position shielded from any heated surface or electrical equipment and the shielding device or construction should be sturdy enough to endure leaks, splashes or spray under design pressure of the fuel oil supply line so as to preclude impingement of fuel oil onto such surface or equipment; and
 - g) the sampling arrangement should be provided with suitable drainage to the drain tank or other safe location.
3. Fuel oil samples should be handled as below:
 - a) Samples should be taken when a steady flow is established in the fuel oil circulating system.
 - b) The sampling connection should be thoroughly flushed through with the fuel oil in use prior to drawing the sample.
 - c) The samples should be collected in a sampling container and should be representative of the fuel oil being used.
 - d) The sample bottles should be sealed by the inspector with a unique means of identification installed in the presence of the ship's representative. The ship should be given the option of retaining a sample.
4. The sample's container label should include the following information:
 - a) sampling point location where the sample was drawn;
 - b) date and port of sampling;
 - c) name and IMO number of the ship;
 - d) details of seal identification; and
 - e) signatures and names of the inspector and the ship's representative.
5. Ship Owners, Managers and Masters are advised to be guided by this new requirement and review their fuel oil sampling procedures to ensure that samples can be drawn safely from the ship's fuel service system. It is also imperative that the ship's crew are aware of the above-mentioned requirements and familiarized with the ship-specific system.

For information, you may contact
SCM Office : 603-55138170, Fax : 603-55138086, Email : infohq@myscm.com.my

Captain M. Prathaban	+6012 2997278	mprathaban@myscm.com.my
Mohd Marby	+6012 6071147	marby@myscm.com.my
Mohd Nor Sahat	+6012 2349521	mdnor@myscm.com.my
Sosanto Yusup	+6013 3841229	sosanto@myscm.com.my