



TECHNICAL ALERT No. 15-29

Low-Sulphur Fuel Regulations for Cruise Ships in Sydney Harbour, Australia

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Amendment (Cruise Ships) Regulation 2015* entered into force on 01 October 2015. This Regulation introduces limits on the sulphur content of fuel oil consumed by cruise ships visiting Sydney Harbour, Australia.
- 1.2. For the purposes of the Regulation, "cruise ship" means a passenger ship not having a cargo deck, designed exclusively for commercial transportation of over 100 passengers in overnight accommodation on a sea voyage.
- 1.3. The text of the new regulations can be found on the website of the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority (EPA) website via the link below:
<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/air/cruiseships-regulation-2015.pdf>
- 1.4. This Technical Alert aims to increase awareness of the introduction of the above Regulation and to alert Companies operating Bahamian cruise ships to potential penalties that may be applied to ships failing to demonstrate compliance with the regulations.
- 1.5. Please also see Technical Alert 15-09.

2. New Requirements for cruise ships in Sydney

- 2.1. From 01 October 2015, cruise ships are required to use low sulphur fuel (0.1% or less) whilst at a berth in Sydney Harbour.

- 2.2. From 01 July 2016, cruise ships whilst within Sydney Harbour boundaries, whether at a berth or not, will be required to use low sulphur fuel (0.1% or less).
- 2.3. Compliance will need to be demonstrated for all fuel consumed on board in main propulsion engines, generator engines and boilers.
- 2.4. The Regulation contains provisions for exemptions from the requirement to use low sulphur fuel in specified circumstances. Any application for exemption shall be made to the New South Wales EPA in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation.
- 2.5. Exceptions to the requirement to use low sulphur fuel are provided for cruise ships using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as their primary fuel source, provided that the EPA is notified at least 48 hours before arrival in Sydney Harbour or if that is not possible, as soon as practicable after that time.
- 2.6. Use of alternative methods of compliance such as exhaust gas cleaning systems (scrubbers) or other methods that provide at least an equivalent emission reduction level are permitted, provided that any alternative compliance method is approved by the New South Wales EPA.
- 2.7. Samples of the compliant fuel consumed whilst in Sydney shall be kept on board, or at premises in the State of New South Wales approved by the EPA, for at least one year. Cruise ships are required to submit a representative sample of the compliant fuel upon request of an authorised officer.

3. Record Keeping

- 3.1. Cruise ships that berth in Sydney Harbour or, after 01 July 2016, are in Sydney Harbour, are required to maintain records in relation to compliant fuel bunkering, change over and use as specified in the Regulation.
- 3.2. Records are to be kept on board, or at premises in the State of New South Wales approved by the EPA, for a period of at least three years.

4. Penalties

- 4.1.1. Failure to comply with the Regulation may result in penalties of up to AU\$ 15,000.

5. Validity

- 5.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

6. Revision History

- 6.1. Rev.0 (02 November 2015) – First issue