



TECHNICAL ALERT No. 17-01

AMSA Directions on limiting sulphur emissions from cruise ships whilst at berth in Sydney Harbour

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has recently published Marine Notice 21/2016 addressing a new approach to limiting emissions of sulphur oxides from cruise ships in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.
- 1.2. This Technical Alert aims to increase awareness of possible control actions and penalties by AMSA that may be applied to ships failing to demonstrate compliance with the regulations.
- 1.3. This Technical Alert should be read in conjunction with [BMA Technical Alert 15-29, Low-Sulphur Fuel Regulations for Cruise Ships in Sydney Harbour, Australia](#).

2. **AMSA Marine Notice 21/2016 "Direction for cruise vessels to limit sulphur emissions at berth in Sydney Harbour"**

- 2.1. From December 2016, all cruise ships of 100 passengers or more and berthed in Sydney Harbour will be issued by AMSA with a Direction outlining requirements to limit sulphur emissions.
- 2.2. The following means of limiting sulphur oxides emission may be permitted:
 - Using fuel with sulphur content no exceeding 0.1% m/m;
 - Using exhaust gas cleaning systems approved and certificated in accordance with IMO MEPC.259(68) Guidelines for Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems, 2015;
 - Using an external source of power; or
 - Using a combination of the above.

- 2.3. AMSA expects and requires that masters and operators comply with the Direction. There are substantial penalties for non-compliance.
- 2.4. AMSA will take in to consideration the specific circumstances if the Direction cannot be met due to:
- unforeseen and uncontrolled mechanical or equipment failure;
 - the unavailability of compliant fuel;
 - unexpected delays in departure beyond the reasonable control of the master; and
 - an unscheduled berthing due to an emergency.
- 2.5. In any of the circumstances indicated in paragraph 2.4, AMSA must be notified, and should be provided with supporting evidence about the reason and the steps being taken to rectify the non-compliance.
- 2.6. The text of Marine Notice 2016/21 is available at the following link:

<https://apps.amsa.gov.au/MOReview/Attachment/ShowAttachment/5146>

3. Validity

- 3.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

4. Revision History

- 4.1. Rev.0 (19 January 2017) – First issue