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## Engineering Circular No.05 of 2015

NO: ENG/OPP-38(2)/2012

Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

### Subject: Carriage requirements for Blends of Petroleum Oil and Biofuel Cargoes

1. The Marine Environment Protection Committee of IMO recognizing the need to clarify how Biofuels subject to MARPOL Annex II, when blended with petroleum oils, subject to Annex I of MARPOL, can be shipped in bulk, has provided Guidelines vide MEPC.1/Circ.761/Rev.1 dated 01<sup>st</sup> February 2013. The Guidelines in Annex to the MEPC.1/Circ.761/Rev.1, section 4.1.2 require that ships, when carrying Biofuel blends containing 75 percent or more of petroleum oil will be required to carry ODME which should be approved for the mixture being transported.
2. Further, on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013, IMO vide Resolution MEPC.240(65) has adopted Amendments to the "Revised Guidelines and Specifications for Oil Discharge Monitoring and Control Systems for Oil Tankers ( Resolution MEPC.108(49))" wherein in the type approval test "Biofuel" is added and reference is made also to the latest ISO standards. The amended revised Guidelines and specifications also provide for testing of the Oil Discharge Monitoring Equipment (ODME) for capability to monitor the Biofuel blends containing 75 percent or more of petroleum oil.
3. The Directorate has received requests for clarification on the applicability of the provisions of MEPC.1/Circ.761/Rev.1 and IMO Resolution MEPC.240(65) on Indian flag vessels. In view of the same the following guidelines is hereby issued to all stakeholders who intend to carry Biofuel blends on their vessels.
4. **Application:** The carriage provision for Biofuel blends is based on the volumetric composition of the blends as follows:
  - (i) When containing 75 per cent or more of petroleum oil, the Biofuel blend is subject to Annex I of MARPOL.
  - (ii) When containing more than 1 per cent but less than 75% of petroleum oil, the Biofuel blends are subject to Annex II of MARPOL and should be carried under the conditions as mentioned in the Table under section 4.2.1 of MEPC.1/Circ.761/Rev.1.

(iii) When containing 1 per cent or less of petroleum oil, the Biofuel blends are subject to Annex II of MARPOL.

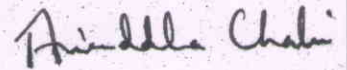
5. **Compliance:** Compliance to the above stated IMO Resolutions shall be attained by Indian flag vessels as per the following:-

(i) From 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2016, all Ships which intend to carry Biofuel blends containing 75 per cent or more of petroleum oil, the ship's ODME should be in compliance with MEPC.108(49) as amended by MEPC.240 (65). If not, the ODME should be replaced with a compliant one.

(ii) Until 01 January 2016, biofuel blends may be carried when the ODME is not approved for the mixture being transported, provided that tank residues and all tank washings are pumped ashore.

(iii) When carrying Biofuel blends containing more than 5 per cent of ethyl alcohol then alcohol resistant foams shall be used in deck fire-fighting systems.

6. This issues with the approval of the competent authority and comes into effect from the date of issue of this circular.



(Aniruddha Chaki)  
E & SS cum DDG (Tech)

To,

1. The Principal Officers/ Mercantile Marine Department, Mumbai/Kolkata/ Chennai/ Kandla/Cochin.

2. The Surveyor-in-charge, Mercantile Marine Department, Goa/Jamnagar/Port Blair /Visakhapatnam /Tuticorin /Delhi /Haldia/ Paradip /Mangalore.

3. All Recognised Organizations.

4. Indian National Shipowners Association (INSA), Mumbai

5. All Shipping Companies

6. CS/NA/CSS/Jt.DG

7. Hindi Cell

8. Guard file.

9. Computer Cell