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MEPC.1/Circ.761/Rev.1  
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**2011 GUIDELINES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF BLENDS OF PETROLEUM OIL  
AND BIOFUELS, AS AMENDED**

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its sixty-second session (11 to 15 July 2011), 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, approved the 2011 Guidelines for the carriage of blends of petroleum oil and biofuels and agreed that these should become operative from 1 September 2011.

2 At its sixty-fourth session (1 to 5 October 2012), the Marine Environment Protection Committee approved amendments to the 2011 Guidelines, as set out in annex 3 of document BLG 16/16, relating to deck fire-fighting system requirements and the fire protection assignment (column I) given for the entry "Biofuel blends of Gasoline and Ethyl alcohol (>25% but <99% by volume)".

3 The 2011 Guidelines have accordingly been amended as set out in the annex.

4 Member Governments and international organizations are invited to bring the annexed Guidelines to the attention of Administrations, recognized organizations, port authorities, shipowners, ship operators and other parties concerned.

5 This circular revokes MEPC.1/Circ.761.

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## ANNEX

### 2011 GUIDELINES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF BLENDS OF PETROLEUM OIL AND BIOFUELS, AS AMENDED

#### 1 APPLICATION

1.1 These guidelines apply to ships when carrying in bulk blends of petroleum oil and biofuels subject to Annex I and Annex II of MARPOL, respectively.

#### 2 SCOPE

2.1 These Guidelines have been developed to clarify how biofuels subject to Annex II of MARPOL, when blended with petroleum oils, subject to Annex I of MARPOL, can be shipped in bulk.

#### 3 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these guidelines:

3.1 *Biofuels* are ethyl alcohol, fatty acid methyl esters (FAME), vegetable oils (triglycerides) and alkanes (C10-C26), linear and branched with a flashpoint of either 60°C or less or more than 60°C, as identified in chapters 17 and 18 of the IBC Code or the MEPC.2/Circular/tripartite agreements. Following the distribution of these guidelines, further biofuels identified as falling under the scope of the guidelines, will be recorded in annex 11 of the MEPC.2/Circular which deals with biofuel/petroleum oil blends.

3.2 *Biofuel blends* are mixtures resulting from the blending of those products identified in paragraph 3.1 above with a petroleum oil.

#### 4 CARRIAGE OF BIOFUEL BLENDS

The carriage provision for biofuel blends is based on the volumetric composition of the blends as follows:

##### 4.1 Biofuel blends containing 75 per cent or more of petroleum oil

4.1.1 When containing 75 per cent or more of petroleum oil, the biofuel blend is subject to Annex I of MARPOL.

4.1.2 When carrying such biofuel blends, Oil Discharge Monitoring Equipment (ODME – see resolution MEPC.108(49)) shall be in compliance with regulation 31 of Annex I of MARPOL and should be approved for the mixture being transported.

4.1.3 Until 1 January 2016 biofuel blends may be carried when the ship's ODME is not in compliance with paragraph 4.1.2 above provided that tank residues and all tank washings are pumped ashore.

4.1.4 When considering the deck fire-fighting system requirements of SOLAS chapter II-2, regulations 1.6.1 and 1.6.2, when carrying biofuel blends containing more than 5 per cent of ethyl alcohol then alcohol resistant foams should be used.

## 4.2 Biofuel blends containing more than 1 per cent but less than 75% of petroleum oil

4.2.1 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 following conditions:

| a  | c | d   | e | f  | g    | h  | i' | i'' | i''' | j | k   | l   | n  | o                     |
|--|---|-----|---|----|------|----|----|-----|------|---|-----|-----|----|-----------------------|
| Biofuel blends of Diesel/gas oil and FAME (>25% but <99% by volume)  | X | S/P | 2 | 2G | Cont | No | -  | -   | Yes  | C | T   | ABC | No | 15.12, 15.17, 15.19.6 |
| Biofuel blends of Diesel/gas oil and Vegetable oil (>25% but <99% by volume)   | X | S/P | 2 | 2G | Cont | No | -  | -   | Yes  | C | T   | ABC | No | 15.12, 15.17, 15.19.6 |
| Biofuel blends of Gasoline and Ethyl alcohol (>25% but <99% by volume)   | X | S/P | 2 | 2G | Cont | No | T3 | IIA | No   | C | F-T | A   | No | 15.12, 15.17, 15.19.6 |
| Biofuel blends of Diesel/gas oil and Alkanes (C10-C26), linear and branched with a flashpoint > 60°C (>25% but <99% by volume) | X | S/P | 2 | 2G | Cont | No | -  | -   | Yes  | C | T   | ABC | No | 15.12, 15.17, 15.19.6 |
| Biofuel blends of Diesel/gas oil and Alkanes (C10-C26), linear and branched with a flashpoint ≤ 60°C (>25% but <99% by volume) | X | S/P | 2 | 2G | Cont | No | T3 | IIA | No   | C | F-T | ABC | No | 15.12, 15.17, 15.19.6 |

4.2.2 With respect to new biofuels identified as falling under the scope of these guidelines, carriage requirements for specific biofuel/petroleum oil blends to be shipped as MARPOL Annex II cargoes will be incorporated into List 1 of the MEPC.2/Circular, as appropriate.

## 4.3 Biofuel blends containing 1 per cent or less petroleum oil

4.3.1 When containing 1 per cent or less of petroleum oil, the biofuel blends are subject to Annex II of MARPOL.

## 5 BLENDING OF PETROLEUM OIL AND BIOFUEL ON BOARD

5.1 Blending on board describes the mixing of two products resulting in one single product (a blended mixture) and reflects only physical mixing as distinct from any chemical processing. Such mixing operations should only be undertaken whilst the ship is within port limits.

5.2 The physical blending on board of petroleum oil and biofuels during a sea voyage to create new products is prohibited as indicated in MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.8 – Prohibition of blending MARPOL cargoes on board during the sea voyage.

## 6 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

6.1 The certification for the biofuel blend to be shipped should be in compliance with Annex I or Annex II of MARPOL, as appropriate.