

Nitrogen Oxide Emission Control Areas

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems
Rules for Marine Engine Emission Verification
Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems
Guidance for Marine Engine Emission Verification

Reason for Amendment

For the purpose of air pollution prevention, regulation 13 of MARPOL Annex VI specifies nitrogen oxide emission limits for onboard reciprocating internal combustion engines depending upon the construction date of the ship. The strictest of these are the Tier III requirements which apply to ships whose date of construction is on or after 1 January 2016 and which operate in nitrogen oxide emission control areas such as the North American Emission Control Area and the United States Caribbean Sea Emission Control Area.

After the aforementioned 1 January 2016 implementation date, however, the IMO continued discussion on proposals to designate the Baltic Sea and the North Sea as nitrogen oxide emission control areas and to add provisions to permit temporary exemptions from the Tier III requirements for specific types of navigation such as navigation necessary for the maintenance or repair of engines which is not related to cargo loading/unloading.

As a result, the IMO adopted, at the 71st session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC71) held in July 2017, an amendment to Annex VI of MARPOL as Resolution MEPC.286(71) which designates the Baltic Sea and the North Sea as nitrogen oxide emission control areas and also establishes provisions related to the above-mentioned temporary exemptions.

Accordingly, all relevant requirements were amended based upon IMO Resolution MEPC.286(71).

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Added the Baltic Sea and the North Sea as nitrogen oxide emission control areas applicable to ships the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2021.
- (2) Added provisions related to temporary exemption from emission control requirements applied in nitrogen oxide emission control areas.
- (3) Specified that provisions related to descriptive notes to be entered into the Classification Register of ships in order to facilitate distinction as to whether the ship is subject to the Tier III requirements.
- (4) Amended expressions such as those found in various definitions.

Amended Requirements

Rules for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems Part 1 1.1.4, Part 8 1.1.2, 2.1.2, 2.1.4, 2.2
Rules for Marine Engine Emission Verification 1.2.1, 2.2.2
Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems Part 8 2.1.1, 2.1.2
Guidance for Marine Engine Emission Verification 2.2.2