



Distillate fuels for Californian waters

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) issued an advisory Marine Notice (Marine Notice 2009-2) on May 7th, 2009, regarding implementation of a proposed new regulation on fuel sulphur and other operational requirements for ocean going vessels within 'Regulated California Waters' which generally includes all of the areas within 24 nautical miles of the California coastline.

Currently undergoing final administrative review, the regulation is due to become legally effective late in June, although vessel compliance with the new requirements is expected to be enforced only from July 1st, 2009.

The regulation will require the use of distillate fuels only and the requirements are summarised in the table below:-

Fuel Requirement	Effective Date	Fuel
Phase I	July 1st 2009	Marine gas oil (DMA) at or below 1.5% sulphur; or Marine diesel oil (DMB) at or below 0.5% sulphur
Phase II	Jan 1st 2012	Marine gas oil (DMA) or Marine diesel oil at or below 0.1% sulphur

These fuel requirements apply to ocean-going vessel main (propulsion) diesel engines, auxiliary diesel engines (including diesel-electric) and auxiliary boilers.

In addition, in order to be able to demonstrate compliance, operators must keep a number of English language records, fuel sulphur content for example, for at least three years.

In order to prepare for compliance CARB recommends that:-

- (i) Vessel crews are thoroughly familiar with the operational procedures used to switch fuels in main engines, auxiliary engines and auxiliary boilers.
- (ii) Sufficient quantities of the specified "Phase I" cleaner fuels are onboard the vessel prior to making a California port visit.
- (iii) Vessel crews understand the relevant record-keeping requirements.

Additional information, including special provision for non-compliance, can be found at www.arb.ca.gov/marine and a copy of the regulation is available from <http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2008/fuelogv08/fuelogv08.htm>

Lintec will keep clients up to date on any issues regarding this regulation as it is implemented.

