



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 318 of 4th February 2016

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	Fuel Oil Issues
Reference:	MARPOL VI

FUEL OIL ISSUES

Fuel Oil Quality Control

The Committee considered the report of an intercessional correspondence group tasked by MEPC 67 with developing draft non-mandatory guidelines for Governments to apply to enhance **the quality control of marine fuel oil suppliers** within their jurisdiction and to consider challenges under current legal frameworks which may limit some Governments' ability to implement such controls.

The draft guidelines under development by the correspondence group proposed application of a three-level approach to determine the quality of the supplier. However, this was met with significant objection by ship owner/operator organizations and several Member States which proposed that a best practice needs to be developed and that further review of the adequacy of the **MARPOL Annex VI** legal framework needs to be undertaken with respect to implementing and enforcing the requirements and obligations of fuel oil suppliers.

The majority of those who spoke were of the view that the regulatory framework is not adequate and needs revision. The intercessional correspondence group has been reestablished to further consider these issues, as well as the illegal blending of chemical waste in bunker fuel oil, and submit a report to MEPC 69.

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REFERENCES:

- **MARPOL VI, MEPC 67-69**

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