



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 564 of 04th July 2019

To: All Surveyors/Auditors

Applicable to flag: All Flags

Greenhouse Gas Reduction-GHG Emissions

Reference: The IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), 74th session

IMO Strategy on GHG Emissions

The Committee continued to develop their method of work to implement the Initial IMO Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships (resolution MEPC.304(72)) and considered how to formally progress on the development of candidate measures into actionable steps in the reduction of GHG emissions from ships.

Procedure for Assessing Impacts on States of Candidate Measures

The Committee approved the Procedure for Assessing Impacts on States of Candidate Measures, which will be released as a MEPC Circular. For States and organizations who are proponents of a given candidate measure to reduce GHG emissions, this procedure requires the proponent to submit an initial impact assessment as part of their proposal to the Committee. Documents commenting on this proposal may be submitted up until the next meeting of the Committee. If any clarifications are requested, the proponent will have until the following meeting of the Committee to provide a comprehensive response.

At that stage, if the Committee so decides, a comprehensive impact assessment would be initiated, taking into account the comments raised and a detailed qualitative and/or quantitative assessment of specific negative impacts on States.

If no commenting documents are submitted during designated period for comments, then the Committee may consider whether a comprehensive impact assessment is required, or if sufficient detail has already been submitted in the initial impact assessment for development of new regulation to proceed.

Commencement of the Fourth IMO GHG Study

Continuing the progress made at the Intersessional Working Group on GHG Reduction, the Committee approved the Terms of Reference which will govern the 4th IMO GHG Study. The terms of the study will require collection of data on global emissions of GHGs emitted from ships of 100 GT and above engaged in international voyages. This inventory of emissions will focus on the period from 2012 to 2018, as far as statistical data are available, and will seek to differentiate emissions from domestic voyages as compared to international voyages. The study will also provide a projection of transport demand and shipping emissions out to 2050.

The Terms of Reference for the study also provide the criteria by which potential tenderers of the

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study will be evaluated. The Committee has requested the IMO Secretariat to issue the Invitation to Tender, and organizations applying to assist the IMO in conducting this study will have until the end of June 2019 to submit their bids. A steering committee of Member States will also be established to participate in the evaluation of applicants. The IMO will consider their recommendation and will award the contract for this study in October 2019.

With these guiding principles in place, the Committee agreed to initiate this process, and anticipates receiving the final report of the 4th IMO GHG Study at MEPC 76 in Autumn 2020.

Streamlining of Proposals on Candidate Short-term Measures

In support of progressing the ambitious goals of the IMO Initial Strategy on GHG Reduction, numerous proposals of candidate measures to reduce GHG emissions in shipping have already been submitted by Member States for consideration. A total of 37 proposals have been noted so far, which were initially categorized into 14 different approaches to address these emissions. The Committee noted that there were multiple interlinkages between these different approaches, and have streamlined them into 3 approaches for further development:

- a. Consideration of proposals to improve the operational efficiency of existing ships, with a view to developing amendments to Chapter 4 of MARPOL Annex VI (and associated guidelines, as appropriate);
- b. Consideration of proposals to reduce methane slip and emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs); and
- c. Consideration of proposals to encourage uptake of alternative low-carbon and zero-carbon fuels, including the development of lifecycle GHG/carbon intensity guidelines for all relevant fuel types (and associated incentive schemes, as appropriate).

Proposals for candidate measures to reduce GHG emissions will be considered under one of these three approaches, which will also help facilitate the comparison of impact assessments for each proposal.

Cooperation between Port and Shipping Sectors on GHG Emissions

The Committee adopted Resolution MEPC.323(74), calling for voluntary cooperation between the port and shipping sectors to facilitate the reduction of GHG emissions from ships. As discussed in the IMO Initial Strategy on GHG Reduction, it was acknowledged that cooperation between ports and the maritime industry would be needed to aid in the reduction of GHG emissions of the maritime transport system. This resolution calls for Member States to address this at ports within their jurisdiction through initiatives such as improving onshore power supply to ships at dock (and providing that power from renewable energy sources), increasing access to bunkering of alternative low-carbon fuels, and supporting the optimization of port calls.

REFERENCES:

- MEPC 74
- ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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