



ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF SHIPS

Amendments to the 2022 Guidelines for the development and management of the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database (resolution MEPC.349(78))

Submitted by IACS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document proposes amendments to the *2022 Guidelines for the development and management of the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database* (resolution MEPC.349(78)). These proposals aim to remove a potential inconsistency (and a risk) in the application of the anonymization, and to ensure consistency with the draft amendments to regulation 27 of MARPOL Annex VI, set out in document MEPC 84/3 (Secretariat).

Strategic direction, if applicable: 3

Output: 3.5

Action to be taken: Paragraph 13

Related documents: MEPC 83/17 (paragraph 6.28.2) and MEPC 84/3

Background

1 MEPC 83 approved draft amendments to regulation 27 of MARPOL Annex VI on the accessibility to the IMO Data Collection System (DCS) for Fuel Oil Consumption Reporting. In doing so, the Committee recognized the need to further strengthen anonymization provisions in the *2022 Guidelines for the development and management of the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database* (resolution MEPC.349(78)) (the Guidelines). The draft amendments to regulation 27 of MARPOL Annex VI are before the Committee for adoption as in document MEPC 84/3 (Secretariat).

2 During MEPC 83, the Committee invited interested Member States and international organizations to submit concrete proposals to a future session on strengthening the anonymization provisions in the Guidelines to ensure that the identification of a specific ship would not be possible and invited concrete proposals to amend relevant guidelines.

3 The proposals in this document are submitted to support the efforts to enhance anonymization provisions while clarifying the practical implications for recognized organizations (ROs). They aim to ensure that the revised guidelines strike an appropriate balance between data confidentiality and the integrity of the verification process. Where IACS

includes proposed amendments to the Guidelines, additions are highlighted using "shaded", while deletions are highlighted using "~~shaded-strikethrough~~".

Discussion

A potential inconsistency in the application of anonymization

4 Paragraph 3.1 of the Guidelines establishes that the IMO number and ship flag data should be anonymized to prevent the identification of individual ships or their operators, as follows:

"3 DATA ANONYMIZATION

Pursuant to regulation 27.12 of MARPOL Annex VI, the data are to be anonymized such that identification of a specific ship will not be possible. For the purpose of the anonymization of the fuel oil consumption data, the following should apply for the database:

.1 the IMO number and ship flag should not be shown;..."

5 However, the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database currently includes information about the RO (typically a classification society) assessing the DCS data and/or submitting the data to the GISIS platform. This presents a potential inconsistency in the application of the anonymization and poses a risk of compromising the intended confidentiality of the system in disclosing the name of the RO as this could indirectly allow identification of the ship or its operator, especially where a limited number of ROs operate under a particular Administration or within a specific fleet segment, making it easier to deduce the identity of the ship or company.

6 Accordingly, IACS proposes that data being entered into the field "Submitter" should also be anonymized on the same basis as the Administration of the ship to ensure a consistent and comprehensive approach to data anonymization.

7 Furthermore, IACS recommends replacing the term "flag" with "Administration" in paragraph 3.1 of the Guidelines to align with standard IMO terminology as "Administration" is defined in the MARPOL Convention.

8 Lastly, IACS proposes that the Committee consider the possibility of updating the reference to regulation 27 to reflect the draft text of MARPOL Annex VI presented for adoption in document MEPC 84/3.

Access by an RO to the relevant data

9 IACS notes that draft regulation 27.11 of MARPOL Annex VI, as contained in document MEPC 84/3 requires that an Administration or any organization duly authorized by it shall have access to all reported data for all the preceding calendar years in the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database for a given ship. Based on this draft requirement, IACS understands that:

.1 an RO authorized by an Administration would be granted access to the ship's historical data. In the event of a change of the RO, the newly authorized RO would be able to access the full history of that data; and

- .2 an RO would only have access to data for ships for which it is duly authorized by the respective Administration.

10 Further to the above, IACS observes that the Guidelines do not currently reflect this understanding, as they refer solely to "the Administration". During ISWG-APEE 1, based on the experience from the management of the DCS database, the Secretariat acknowledged the need for clarity and that the Guidelines should be updated to explicitly recognize that an RO authorized by an Administration should also have access to the relevant data, consistent with the draft amendments of regulation 27.11 of MARPOL Annex VI presented for adoption in document MEPC 84/3.

Proposal

11 To address the concerns discussed in paragraphs 4 to 8, IACS proposes amendments to paragraph 3 of the *2022 Guidelines for the development and management of the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database* (resolution MEPC.349(78)), as follows:

"3 DATA ANONYMIZATION

Pursuant to regulation 27.12³ of MARPOL Annex VI, the data are to be anonymized such that identification of a specific ship will not be possible. For the purpose of the anonymization of the fuel oil consumption data, the following should apply to the database:

- .1 the IMO number and ship's Administration flag or any duly authorized organization, if applicable, should not be shown;"

12 To ensure consistency between the Guidelines and regulation 27.11 of MARPOL Annex VI, as discussed in paragraphs 9 and 10, IACS proposes to amend paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of the *2022 Guidelines for the development and management of the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database* (resolution MEPC.349(78)), as follows:

"4.4 An Administration will have access to non-anonymized data of ships flying its flag. Furthermore, the Administration of a ship, to which regulation 28 of MARPOL Annex VI applies, or any organization duly authorized by it, will have access to all reported data for the preceding calendar years for that ship regardless of flag history."; and

"4.5 An Administration or any organization duly authorized by it should be able to log in to the online database to download the anonymized data set."

Action requested of the Committee

13 The Committee is invited to consider this document, in particular the proposals set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 and take action as appropriate.