

# Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority  
General Directorate of Merchant Marine  
Control and Compliance Department

## **MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-224**

**To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Fuel-oil Suppliers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (RO's).

**Subject:** Control of the Fuel's Quality Guidelines.

**Reference:** Resolution No. 107-OMI-229-DGMM of February 20, 2020 adopted Resolution MEPC.182(59) of July 17, 2009.  
Resolution No. 106-OMI-183-DGMM of December 12, 2016 adopted Resolution MSC.392(95) of June 11, 2015.  
Resolution No. 106-OMI-80-DGMM of June 29, 2010 adopted Resolution MEPC.176(58) of October 10, 2008.

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### **1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this circular is to inform about the establishment of control of the fuel's quality to be delivered on board ships by the bunker suppliers, specifically on the steps to be followed for the taking of samples demanded by MARPOL's Regulation 18(8.1) Annex VI.

### **2. Scope:**

Availability of compliant fuel oils in its ports and terminals according with MARPOL Regulation 18(8.1) Annex VI.

**3.** For sampling location purposes, the sample of the fuel delivered to the ship, should be obtained at the receiving ship's inlet bunker manifold and should be drawn continuously throughout the bunker delivery period. In case of bunker suppliers operating in the Republic of Panama, for sampling location purposes, the sample of the fuel delivered to the ship, should be obtained at the suppliers ship bunker manifold and should be drawn continuously throughout the bunker delivery period.

**4.** The primary sample is the representative sample of the fuel delivered to the ship collected throughout the bunkering period obtained by the sampling equipment positioned at the bunker manifold of the receiving ship.



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5. For term of reference on the previous paragraph quoted of this Merchant Marine Circular, please take into account the information submitted within the Res. MEPC182 (59).

## 6. Flashpoint:

6.1 SOLAS Regulation II-2/4.2.1.1 requires that the minimum flashpoint of any fuel used by the vessel or carried in its tanks must not be less than 60°C. Fuels with a lower flashpoint do not comply with the requirements of SOLAS and, more importantly, create an increased risk of fire and explosion. Consequently, the flashpoint of a fuel supplied to the ship should be properly verified by checking the documentation provided before bunkering operations commence.

Note: This Merchant Marine Circular to start into force since January 1, 2020.

**November, 2023** - Inclusion of purpose and scope, was order the number in the paragraphs.

**March, 2020** - Last Modification.

**February, 2020** - Modification of paragraph 2.

**December, 2019** - Added IMO Resolutions and Circulars, at reference on title. Changed contain of the existing paragraphs, in especially of paragraph No. 2. Addition of new paragraphs (3 to 7.1).

**June, 2011**

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

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