



Risk Assessment Solutions

“Prevent, Don’t Cure”

Circular 04/03/2015

Subject: “HONG KONG issues a New Regulation for Ocean going vessels” - Important Issue!

In connection to our **“Don’t Cure, Prevent”** policy, we would like to inform our clients that from **1st of July 2015**, a new regulation preventing air pollution generated by marine emissions of the ocean going vessels (*OGVs*) berthing in Hong Kong is coming into force, with a view to improve air quality.

The Hong Kong Legislative Council approved the new rule mandating that ocean going vessels (*OGVs*) should use low sulphur fuels while at berth. The compliant fuels are low – sulphur marine fuels (with sulphur content **not exceeding the 0, 5 %**), liquefied natural gas (LNG) and any other type of fuels approved by the air pollution control authority (*Director of Environmental Protection*).

In connection to the above and in order to assist our clients, we would like to advise the Masters/ Shipowners and Managers of vessels calling Hong Kong from the 1st of this July, to keep comprehensive records of the exact date and time that the vessel switched to low sulphur fuels and keep these records available onboard for a minimum time interval of **three years**. A failure to record or keep the required particulars will be liable to a maximum fine of **HK \$ 50,000 or US \$ 6,500** and also a three - month jail term.

It is important to bear in mind that the regulation also **highlights** the following:

- Vessels using technologies that can reduce **SO₂** as effectively as using **0, 5%** sulphur may request for the issuance of an exemption
- Vessels must complete the switch to low sulphur fuel within the first hour they are at berth.
- One hour before departure, the use of any fuel than the compliant one, is not prohibited
- The non – compliance penalty is a fine of **HK \$200,000 or US \$25,700** and also an imprisonment for a six - month period
- Equivalent arrangements to achieve the same or lower sulphur dioxide emissions might be also accepted.

We remain at your disposal for more details,

Prevention at Sea

[Source: DNV - GL]