

NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS No.15 of 2020

EXHAUST GAS CLEANING SYSTEMS

Background

In 2010 regulations within the Directive 2005/33/EC came into force in the UK requiring 0.1% sulphur content fuel to be burnt within port limits. Since 2012, International conventions has also required that fuel used within the North Sea Sulphur Emission Control Area (SECA) must have a maximum sulphur content of 0.1% (1000ppm) on a mass basis, or vessels use a technology that can reduce sulphur emissions to an equivalent level. Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS), in combination with the use of heavy fuel oil (HFO), are accepted as a suitable technology to reaching the sulphur cap, providing specific criteria is met. In 2019, the PLA undertook a study to evaluate the use of EGCS, on the tidal River Thames. The study was taken place to address the concerns of the potential impacts of the washwater from open loop scrubbers on water and sediment quality in ports and the marine environment.

The Use of EGCS on the tidal River Thames

The MCA currently place no restrictions on the use of exhaust gas cleaning systems in ports, providing the systems meet the criteria set out in MSN 1819, except where local port authorities see fit to place them.

MSN 1819 provides an overview from the MCA, which is as follows:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/442381/MSN_1819_Amendment.pdf

Following the review, the PLA will continue to allow the use of both open and closed loop scrubbers in the tidal Thames until further evidence is presented. However, open loop scrubbers are not permitted at any berths operated by the Port of Tilbury. Other individual berth operators may have their own restrictions on the use of scrubbers, agents/owners are therefore advised to contact any berth operators directly for advice.

5 October 2020

Port of London Authority
London River House, Royal Pier Road,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG

JAMES TRIMMER
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING &
ENVIRONMENT



Owners, Agents and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.
TO RECEIVE FUTURE NOTICES TO MARINERS BY **E-MAIL**,
PLEASE REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE www.pla.co.uk
Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich

