

Marine article

How to comply with regulation for exhaust gas

Increased focus on the environmental impact from the Marine industry drives new exhaust gas emission restrictions and regulation. The new regulation forces vessel owners and shipbuilders to implement new technical solutions to ensure compliance with local, regional and global legislation.

IMO 2020

limits on sulfur content in fuel oil came into force

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In January 2020, new limits on sulfur content in fuel oil came into force. This article explores the challenge of sulfur emissions and potential solutions to comply with the new regulation.

New limits on sulfur emissions

Emissions from international shipping activities may have serious consequences for human beings and the natural environment. It is estimated that air pollution from marine activities alone account for up to 50,000 premature deaths every year in Europe.

For the last 60 years, IMO has been working on reducing the harmful emissions from shipping. In 1997 the MARPOL Convention was adopted to deal with the air pollution. In January 2020, the emission control got even stricter, when IMO enforced a global limit for sulfur in fuel oil used for marine applications of 0.50% m/m (mass by mass). This significantly reduced the amount of sulfur oxide emitted from ships to the benefit of people living close to ports and costs.

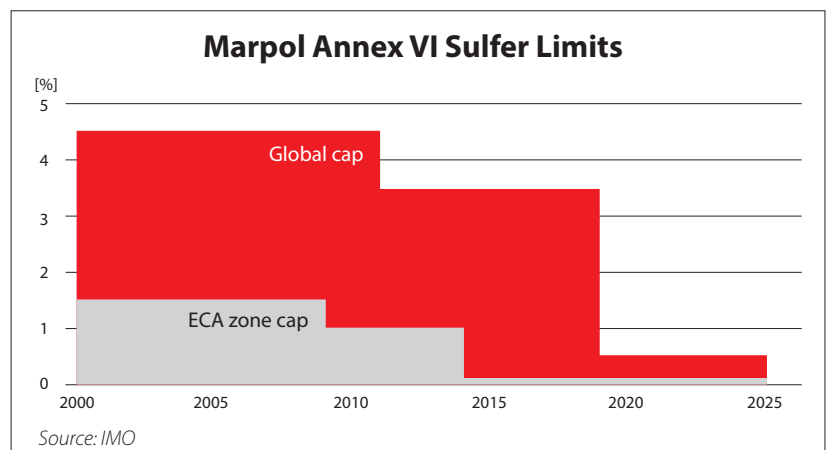


Figure 1: MARPOL Annex VI sulfur limits

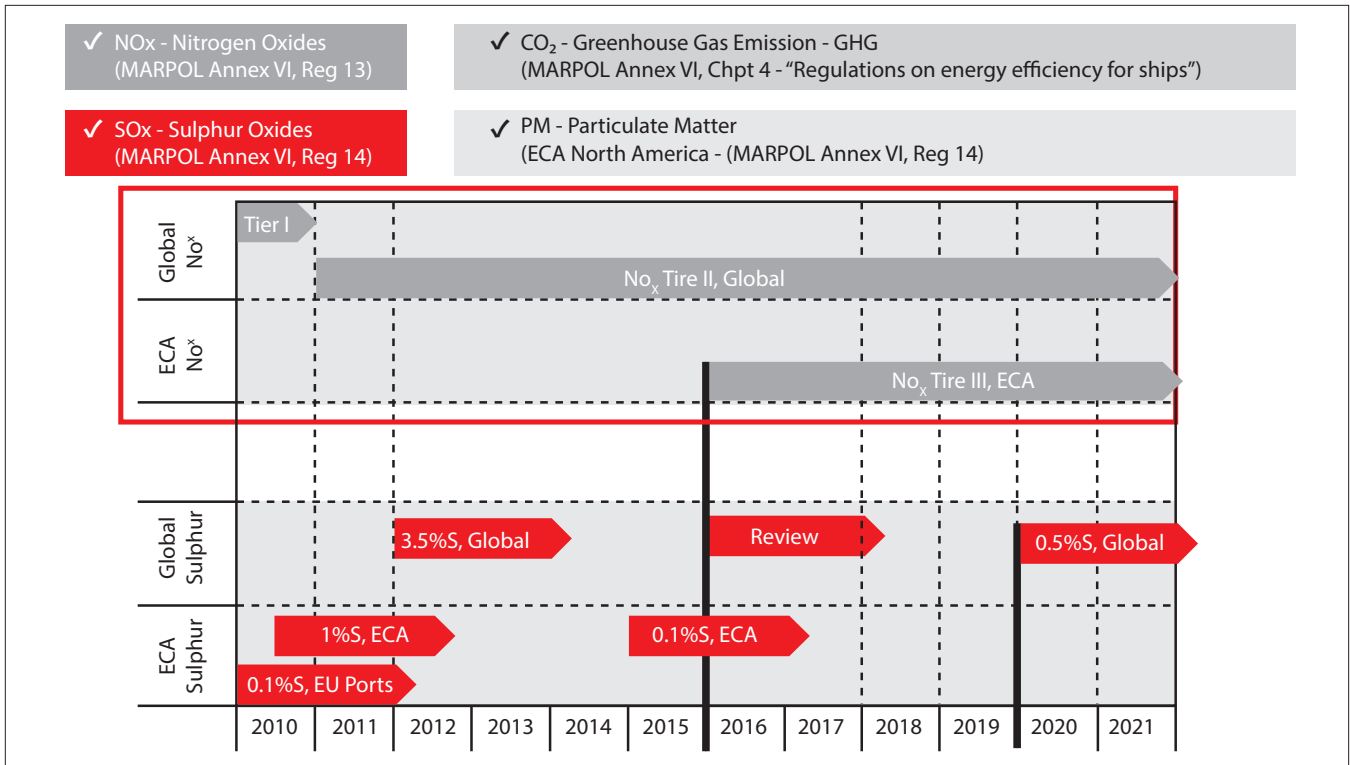


Figure 2: Overview of IMO requirements to emissions from vessels. Source: IMO

How to comply with the new regulation

To comply with the requirements, the shipbuilding industry has several options:

1. Use more expensive low sulfur fuels
2. Install exhaust gas scrubber to wash out particles and sulfur
3. Install engines running on natural gas

The relatively low price on HFO makes it attractive to install an exhaust gas scrubber, and for many shipbuilders a hybrid scrubber system is likely to be the preferred solution to remove SOx due to its ability to switch between open or closed loop operations depending on the emission requirements at the specific location of the vessel.

When running the scrubber in closed loop mode, the recirculated scrubber water accumulates particles and sulfur that must be removed. The particles are separated in a hydro cyclone, whereas the sulfur is neutralized by adding an alkaline such as sodium hydroxide via a dosing system.

When choosing to use scrubber, it is required to monitor the exhaust, to ensure that the emissions limits are held and that the scrubber is working. This is done through Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS) sensor solutions. CEMS sensor solutions can also be relevant for general enforcement of the 2020 Sulphur cap across the three above mentioned options in ensuring even compliance. Today, the burden of proof of compliance lies at authorities. In Denmark, enforcement of compliance is carried out through samples and sniffers. With this method, there is still loopholes and there is not a complete overview of emissions, and consequently not level playing field. Using CEMS solutions on all ships enables the possibility of full transparency of emissions which eases control of emissions, makes regulative enforcement efficient and ensures level playing field.

When to use stainless steel to protect the system

Corrosion by caustic sodium hydroxide at all concentrations is easily handled at room temperature with a variety of metals and alloys, including carbon steels. However, sodium hydroxide becomes more corrosive with increasing temperature and concentration.

The useful safe limit of carbon steel is approximately 65°C for caustic stress corrosion cracking (CSCC) and corrosion. The recirculated scrubber water can, however, easily reach temperatures above 65°C, and therefore a safer choice would be to use stainless steel.

Selective Catalytic Reduction systems for NOx may also require stainless solutions

Apart from SOx, nitrous oxides (NOx) are also subject to the IMO Tier III requirements. This means that it is mandatory to install or retrofit equipment/systems to reduce the NOx level to be in compliance with Tier III standards.

The emission of nitrous oxides can either be reduced by Exhaust Gas Recirculation or by Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR), where Urea or Ammonia is sprayed into the exhaust gas before the gas passes through a catalyst.

Due to the corrosive nature of ammonia and urea, all components of the dosing system should be either coated or made of stainless steel.

Furthermore, using emissions measurement equipment to measure and regulate the dosing of Urea to be more precise, reduces the risk of Ammonia Bisulfate build-up and consequently avoidance of costly repairs and cleaning operations, as well as savings in Urea consumption.

Select the right components for exhaust gas emission cleaning

Danfoss has developed a stainless-steel solenoid valve for aggressive environments. The EV212B solenoid valve anchor is sealed off by an FKM isolating diaphragm that prevents the corrosive media from entering the magnetic anchor. The FKM seal offers high resistance to media such as sea water, sodium hydroxide, Urea or Ammonia.

The new solenoid valve is ideal for exhaust gas scrubber systems.

Get more information about EV212B solenoid valve:

<https://www.danfoss.com/en/products/valves/dcs/solenoid-valves/industrial-solenoid-valves/ev212b/#tab-overview>



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