

# **GUIDANCE ON THE MPA NOTICE MPA NOTICE TO BUNKER SUPPLIERS, BUNKERING CRAFT OPERATORS AND BUNKER SURVEYING COMPANIES NO. 01 OF 2020: INTERIM PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK OF CONTRACTING COVID-19 DURING BUNKERING OPERATIONS IN PORT OF SINGAPORE**

- A. The Port Marine Notice provides guidance to bunker craft operators, bunker suppliers and bunker surveyors on the interim precautionary measures in minimising the risk of contracting COVID-19 during bunkering operations in the Port of Singapore. All personnel involved should comply with the measures stated in the notice as far as practicable.

The intent of the notice is to limit and avoid unnecessary interaction between the bunker tanker crew and the visiting vessel's crew. The roles and responsibilities of the persons to conduct the checks/inspections remain the same as per SS 648.

Non-compliance to the SS 648 or to the notice, from any Party, should be documented in the Letter of Protest / Statement of Facts by the appointed surveyor, ship's Master and the cargo officer.

## **B. General Operations**

- i. When accepting orders, bunker suppliers / craft operators should inform the bunker buyer / receiving vessel beforehand that the receiving vessel's crew shall assist in connecting and disconnecting the bunker hose to avoid having the bunker crew board the receiving vessel as a precautionary measure
- ii. The bunker supplier / craft operator should also inform the bunker buyer / receiving vessel that all pre and post bunkering documentations to be transferred/received via bucket and messenger rope. For those documents that can be shared and verified electronically, such as photos, is encouraged to be done so via electronic means if available.
- iii. In the event a bunker surveyor is not engaged, all verification / checks as required by SS 648 shared between the visiting vessel and the bunker tanker shall be agreed by the ships Master/Chief Engineer and the cargo officer.

## **C. When Surveyor is Not Engaged**

- i. Supplier shall provide sample bottles, instruction placard on the attaching and performing the sampling as per SS48. Unless the receiving vessel provides their own, the supplier shall also provide the sampling flange.

The cargo officer and the receiving vessel should agree on the sampling flange to be used.

- ii. Keep a continuous flow rate in the collection sample so as to ensure that the sample represents the whole quantity of the parcel delivered.
- iii. As the custody transfer samples are supposed to be taken at the receiving vessel, it should be divided into the bottles at the receiving vessel itself.

The supplier should set such interim procedures in accordance with SS 648.

If the supplier is of the view that witnessing of sampling is a critical work activity the warrant the need of the cargo officer onboard the receiving vessel, he can still board the receiving vessel for this activity but they should perform the activity expeditiously and be restricted to ship's open deck, and not within accommodation space, engine room or pump room.

Necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), including the use of a surgical mask and gloves minimally must be used as well as goggles/face shields (as appropriate), and ensure no close contact with the vessel's crew.

- iv. The receiving vessel shall send pictures, with date and time stamp of the sampling equipment and the operational seal of the sampling point.

D. When Surveyor is Engaged

- i. Can the appointed surveyor be the supplier's legal representatives for the vessel i.e. surveyor to be a witness on behalf of the vessel and endorsed on all required documents?

MPA does not mandate the requirement for a bunker surveyor to be onboard the receiving vessel. The engagement of a bunker surveyor is a commercial arrangement between the receiving vessel (bunker purchaser) and the bunker surveying company. The supplier should engage the bunker purchaser on whether the bunker surveyor, if engaged, can be the witness and act on behalf for both parties.

- ii. Would the surveyor be allowed to cross over between the bunker tanker and receiving vessel?

As mentioned in the draft notice, ***"If a bunker surveyor is engaged, he shall be allowed to conduct all his duties in accordance with the relevant bunkering standards."*** Bunker surveyors are required to minimally wear a surgical mask and gloves as well as goggles/face shield (as appropriate), and shall maintain safe distance of at least 2 metres from the cargo officer, bunker crew or visiting ship's crew at all times. He must complete the job expeditiously. The bunker tanker crew must follow the craft operator's safe management practices in place such as to check the bunker surveyor's temperature when he boards the vessel and maintain social distance with him at all times.