

## Coast Guard Announces Public Hearing on Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems



SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

The Coast Guard will hold a two-day public hearing, October 12 and 13, 2011, to discuss guidelines and wastewater discharge criteria for exhaust gas cleaning systems for marine engines to be used as an alternative to the low-sulfur fuel requirements of Annex VI of MARPOL (Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships). Although Regulation 14 of Annex VI sets strict limits on the sulfur content of fuel used on board ships to limit the discharge of sulfur oxide, Regulation 4 permits the use of systems and procedures as an alternative, if they can be shown to be equally effective in reducing emissions. The International Maritime Organization's Marine Environmental Protection Committee published Resolution 184(59) setting out guidelines for such systems, but those guidelines have yet to be implemented by the U.S. The Coast Guard's public hearing, to be held in consultation with the EPA, is intended to advance that process, by covering the potential approval process, test procedures, inspection and verification, handling of wastewater, reception facilities, safety concerns, training needs, and record-keeping issues. The Coast Guard is also looking for information relevant to such systems, including current test procedures and results, and processes for certifying laboratories. A copy of the Coast Guard Notice, along with MEPC Resolution 184(59), is attached.

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