

CHINA UPDATE 1/7/2019 & 12/31/2018: January 1, 2019 0.5% ECA Zone

China including Hong Kong joins Singapore, Belgium, the German Rhine River and some U.S. States in officially banning open-loop scrubbers

According to various shipping publications China has moved ahead with a ban on open-loop scrubbers. The Ministry of Transport in Beijing has banned the technology from the newly defined country's emission control areas (ECAs), which as of this year now cover all of China's coastline.

The latest ship emission regulation document released by the ministry has banned ships from discharging wastewater and burning residue from open-loop scrubbers across the country's coastal and river ECAs, while ships are required to record the details of wastewater and residue disposal.

China joins various other countries in banning the technology which will mean owners who fitted open loop EGTS will have to upgrade to more expensive hybrid scrubber systems which store scrubber sludge on board for later disposal and require the use of chemicals, if they wish to use their systems within these ECAs. Alternatively they can switch their fuel to 0.5% or 0.1% S m/m where applicable - but it will be running through engines and supply systems that were minutes before running 3.5% through them - so their actual sulfur emissions may be open to further scrutiny from PSC. It is reported that other countries are also assessing whether or not to allow the technology.

On January 1, 2019 The Chinese Ministry of Transport will introduce a 0.5% sulphur limit for ships entering China's coastal waters.

This is designed to improve the quality of shipping and promote the environmentally friendly development of water transport within China, **the Chinese Ministry of Transport published this new requirement on 6 December 2018.**

0.5% sulphur limit from 1 January 2019

From 1 January 2019, all ships entering China's coastal waters must use fuel with a maximum sulfur content of 0.5% m/m. A carriage ban for fuel oils containing more than 0.5% sulfur will be enforced for all ships without an exhaust gas cleaning system (EGCS - or scrubber) starting from 1 March 2020, thus being in line with global IMO sulfur regulations.

From 1 January 2020, even stricter requirements will apply to ships entering inland waterways, including the Yangtze River and Xijiang River (western part of Pearl River), where a maximum 0.1% sulfur content will be allowed. From 1 January 2022, the 0.1% limit will also apply to the domestic area of Hainan Island.

Ships undergoing a conversion, which includes the installation of EGCSs in Chinese dockyards, should communicate with the Chinese Maritime Safety Administration if fuel oils with a higher sulfur content can be used during the commissioning test of the EGCS.

China will further evaluate the situation of using 0.1% sulfur fuel and will determine whether to implement the 0.1% sulfur limit in all coastal waters (not only the rivers) from 1 January 2025.

0.5% S m/m

0 75 150 Km

