



USE OF EXHAUST GAS CLEANING SYSTEMS

Mariners are advised that Peel Ports is gathering information from vessels using their ports regarding the use of exhaust gas cleaning systems.

From 1 January 2020, the limit for sulphur in fuel oil used on board ships operating outside designated emission control areas is reduced to 0.50% m/m (mass by mass).

All ships must meet this requirement of MARPOL Annex VI, regulation 14, regardless of their size, or whether they are on an international or domestic voyage.

Some vessels limit their air pollution by installing exhaust gas cleaning systems, also known as “scrubbers”. The use of such systems is allowed under Regulation 4 of MARPOL Annex VI as long as they do not impair or damage the environment, human health, property, or resources.

Research into the environmental effects of scrubber washwater is ongoing. However, ports are concerned of the potential for these systems to contaminate sediment, preventing future dredging activities. In order to contribute to the evidence base and facilitate better understanding of the potential impacts of the use of exhaust gas cleaning systems, Peel Ports is collecting information about the vessels using their ports.

All vessels navigating within the Statutory Harbour Authorities of Peel Ports are therefore asked to complete a short survey which can be accessed by following the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe4fSuD-jlP2V1-VWwzWMzRP5Q5GoMwcZX73k37Vz8DEYy3g/viewform>

Once a vessel has completed the survey, they will not need to repeat their submission.

The use of closed loop scrubbers and hybrid systems in closed loop mode are allowed. Research is ongoing to determine the potential implications for sediment quality of the use of open loop scrubbers (also hybrid systems in open loop mode). Until such time as the effects are better understood, the use of open loop scrubbers and hybrid systems in open loop mode may be temporarily prohibited in port waters.