

Standing NASBO 08

POLICY ON THE USE OF EXHAUST GAS CLEANING SYSTEMS (EGCS) IN PORT JURISDICTIONS

Issued 5th January 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that From 1 January 2020, the limit for sulphur in fuel oil used on board ships operating outside designated emission control areas 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”.

MARPOL Annex VI, Regulation 4 enables the use of exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS), also known as scrubbers, as an alternative method of compliance with Regulation 14; however, the use of EGCS must not impair or damage the environment, human health, property or resources.

Research into the environmental effects of EGCS wash-water, including on sediments, is ongoing.

Vessels using EGCS must operate in accordance with UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency guidance and comply with the criteria set out in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1819 (M+F). This note says that the wash water from exhaust gas cleaning systems must not be discharged into any port, harbour or estuary unless it is thoroughly documented that the waste streams will have no adverse impact on the ecosystem of that port, harbour or estuary.

Masters of vessels may be asked from time to time to provide evidence of compliance with MSN 1819 (M+F).

The use of exhaust gas cleaning systems within Peel Ports Statutory Harbour Authorities:

Peel Ports London Medway does not restrict the use of scrubber systems provided vessels operate in accordance with MCA guidance and comply with the criteria set out in MSN 1819. Vessels may be asked to show evidence of the compliance with the MSN if challenged.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939681/MSN_1819_Amendment.pdf

Within the locks and enclosed dock systems of Chatham, closed-loop systems and hybrid systems operating in closed-loop mode may be used. The use of open-loop systems and hybrid systems operating in open-loop mode is not permitted. The operators of terminals and berths within the Port may impose their own conditions to further restrict the use of EGCS whilst vessels are alongside; however, those operators cannot sanction the use of EGCS contrary to the provisions of this Notice. Masters of vessels should seek clarification in this connection from the relevant terminal or berth operator.'

Please forward any related queries to medway.marine@peelports.com or call 01795 596550

**Marine Operations Department
Peel Ports London Medway**

Notice Issued:
Notice Expiry:

5th January 2026
N/A