



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
60th session
Agenda item 4

MEPC 60/4/42
15 January 2010
Original: ENGLISH

PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

Current status of the revision of the marine fuel specification ISO 8217 factors regarding fuel characteristics and parameters addressing air quality, ship safety, engine performance and crew health

Submitted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	The ISO committee "Classification and Specification of Marine Fuels" is currently going through the final stages of the revision of ISO 8217 Specifications of marine fuels. That revision has taken into account the issues raised by IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee and is on course to be completed, as requested by the Committee, prior to 1 July 2010
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	7.3
<i>High-level action:</i>	7.3.1
<i>Planned output:</i>	7.3.1.1
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 9
<i>Related documents:</i>	MEPC 57/21; MEPC 58/4/1, MEPC 58/23; MEPC 59/4/3 and MEPC 59/24

Introduction

1 This document provides details on the current status of the revision of ISO 8217 Specifications of marine fuels initiated in part by IMO's request to the ISO Working Group ISO/TC 28/SC 4/WG 6 Classification and Specification of Marine Fuels, to take into account factors regarding fuel characteristics and parameters addressing air quality, ship safety, engine performance and crew health.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.



ISO 8217 revision status

2 The ISO Working Group handling the revision of ISO 8217 specification commenced work in March 2008. The ISO Working Group is comprised of an international range of experts encompassing fuel producers, shipowners, ship operators, shipping associations, national standards bodies, classification societies, fuel testing services and engine designers.

3 During the course of the preparation of the revised specification, the ISO Working Group held 11 meetings from March 2008 to July 2009. In contrast it should be noted that the previous revision of the specification was undertaken over the course of 10 meetings spread however over a period of six years from November 1996 to May 2002. Consequently, this revision has been subject to a higher level of scrutiny over a relatively compressed period.

4 Following the thirty-first meeting, the proposed draft revised specification (DIS Version) was on 17 July 2009 sent for balloting by the national committees of 36 countries in accordance with ISO procedures. These national committees, representing the recognized standardization bodies of those countries, are themselves comprised of experts within the various related fields of experience. The DIS Version has been available to the public since the opening of the balloting period and it is known that a number of interested parties had expressed their views to their national committees.

5 The DIS balloting process was closed 17 December 2009. The ballot was 82% in favour of approving the DIS Version on behalf of the Permanent Members, ISO procedures require this to be a minimum in favour of 66.66% in order to go forward and hence this criterion was met. Many countries had accompanied their votes, in favour, disapproval or abstentions, with comments.

6 The ISO Procedure requires all comments to be taken into account in preparing the FDIS Version. To this end the thirty-second meeting of the ISO Working Group was held 14-16 January 2010 and currently work is underway to prepare the necessary text for the thirty-third meeting scheduled for 22 February 2010, after which it is anticipated that the FDIS Version will be finalized.

7 The FDIS Version will be subject to a further round of a two months' balloting period. Provided that the necessary proportion of approval votes has been cast, the specification will go forward to translation and publishing. On the basis that the FDIS vote is in favour, it is confidently expected that the revised ISO 8217 Specifications of marine fuels will be published before 1 July 2010.

8 Consequently at this time, it is not possible to advise the Committee of the content and details of the FDIS Version. However this will be communicated to the IMO Secretariat prior to MEPC 61 so the necessary information will be available for the Committee at that session.

Action requested of the Committee

9 The Committee is invited to take note of the information from ISO and its Working Group in paragraphs 2 to 7, and consider paragraph 8 for appropriate action as is deemed necessary.