

Know Your Environmental Compliance Options



CONTINUOUS SHIFTS in global, regional and national environmental policies are giving rise to stricter requirements for vessel performance and emissions.

In this ever-changing regulatory landscape, ABS is the shipowners' best resource for advice on environmental regulations and related compliance solutions. The recent influx of regulations can overwhelm a shipowner's operations; most compliance solutions are not simple or cheap. They require investments of time and money, and there is no universal solution.

While new technology is creating more compliance options, shipowners and operators may increasingly find themselves having to carefully assess their choices and tailor compliance solutions to the operating profile of a specific vessel, or the unique characteristics of their fleet.

ABS provides comprehensive technical and operational support for cost-effective compliance selection across many regulatory areas.

IMO Global Sulphur Cap

The impending IMO Global Sulphur Cap enters into force on Jan 1, 2020, requiring a 0.5% cap on sulphur content in marine fuels. This regulation introduces challenges for the shipping industry and raises concerns about the availability of fuels, operational reliability and price uncertainty, as well as questions about the installation

and operational impact of exhaust-gas cleaning systems, or 'scrubbers'.

ABS offers marine and offshore clients guidance and advisory support to help them meet the requirements of the sulphur cap. From understanding the requirements and options, to execution and cost-effective operations, ABS has the tools and services to help owners and operators make the smartest decisions for their fleet.

EU Monitoring, Reporting, Verification (MRV)

Since January 1, 2018, the European Union has required all vessels over 5,000 gross tons that call at EU ports to monitor, report and verify their CO₂ emissions each year. Shipowners and operators must have a verified monitoring plan in place. The EU plans to use the data to monitor emissions and form strategies to further reduce CO₂ emissions.

Monitoring and annual reporting can be a burden unless vessel operators have a plan in place for calculating CO₂ emissions and collecting the associated documentation. ABS can help shipowners and operators assess their EU MRV monitoring plan and verify that emission reports conform with the monitoring plans they choose.

IMO Data Collection System (DCS)

From January 1, 2019, the IMO DCS scheme will require vessel owners and

operators to report emissions data to their vessel's Flag Administration at the end of each calendar year. Owners who have an EU MRV plan in place are likely already collecting the data they need to comply with IMO DCS. ABS offers an easy-to-use template to fill in the gaps between EU MRV and IMO DCS compliance.

For those without an existing EU MRV plan, ABS has a simple template to help generate a compliant Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan, as required by the IMO.

ABS offers additional support through its compliance software, NS Voyage Manager, which captures and manages CO₂ emissions data.

Ballast Water Management Systems (BWMS)

Shipping moves between 3-5 billion tons of ballast water across the world each year, potentially carrying invasive species in each tank. To limit the environmentally harmful implications of this practice, the IMO and the U.S. Coast Guard have approved a wide range of preventative systems and technologies.

With so many options, the main challenge for each shipowner and operator is to identify which ballast water management system (BWMS) best meets the unique technical and operational needs of their fleet.

In the US-flagged vessels — in addition to ships calling at US ports — are also subject to unique national requirements from the United States Coast Guard. Because other regional requirements also exist elsewhere, global operators must be careful that BWMS regulations do not interfere with their vessels' trading routes.

ABS offers Ballast Water Management Technology Evaluations to guide owners in technology and system selection and technical support for requests to extend compliance deadlines.

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