



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
(Kagawaran ng Enerhiya)



DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC 2025-02-0002

PRESCRIBING THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR MARINE FUELS

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7638, otherwise known as the "Department of Energy Act of 1992," as amended by Section 37 of RA 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001," empowers the Department of Energy (DOE) to formulate policies for the planning and implementation of a comprehensive program for the efficient supply and economical use of energy consistent with the approved national economic plan, and with the policies on environmental protection and conservation and maintenance of ecological balance, and provide a mechanism for the integration, rationalization, and coordination of the various energy programs of the Government;

WHEREAS, Section 5 of RA 7638, as amended by Section 37 of RA 9136, further empowers the DOE to formulate and implement a program for the accelerated development of non-conventional energy systems and the promotion and commercialization of their applications;

WHEREAS, Section 14 of RA 8479, otherwise known as the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998," empowers (1) the DOE to monitor the quality of petroleum products and stop the operations of businesses engaged in the sale of petroleum products which do not comply with national standards/protocols of quality, and (2) the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) of the Department of Trade and Industry, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the DOE, the Department of Science and Technology, representatives of the fuel and automotive industries and the consumers, to set the specifications for all types of fuel and fuel-related products to improve fuel composition for increased efficiency and reduced emissions;

WHEREAS, Batas Pambansa (BP) Blg. 33, as amended by Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1865, titled "An Act Defining and Penalizing Certain Prohibited Acts Inimical to the Public Interest and National Security Involving Petroleum and/or Petroleum Products, Prescribing Penalties Therefore and For Other Purposes," prohibits, and provides for penalties for the adulteration of petroleum products;

WHEREAS, Section V - General Provision of MARINA Circular No. SR 2020-06 provides that, by 1 January 2025, all fuel oil used on board ships for propulsion or operation shall have a maximum sulphur content of 0.50% per mass by mass including all gas, petrol, distillates, residual and blended fuels;

WHEREAS, there is a global thrust towards harmonization of fuel quality standard specifications and vehicle technology and emission standards, with due regard to the environment, vehicle performance, health and safety and for easier global/international trade;

WHEREAS, the BPS promulgated the PNS ISO 8217:2024 (ISO published 2024): Products from petroleum, synthetic and renewable sources – Fuels (class F) – Specifications of marine fuels, as the current separate standard specifications for marine fuels;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises, the DOE hereby issues, adopts and promulgates the following:

Section 1. Product Quality Standard Specification. All marine fuel sold in the country shall comply with PNS ISO 8217:2024 (ISO published 2024): Products from petroleum, synthetic and renewable sources – Fuels (class F) – Specifications of marine fuels.

The DOE shall issue the relevant guidelines for the compliance of the Downstream Oil Industry (DOI) participants engaged in the bunker trading / sale of marine fuel.

Section 2. Product Quality Monitoring. The DOE shall conduct random quality sampling and testing of marine fuel in the DOI facilities to ensure compliance with Section 1 of this Department Circular (DC).

Section 3. Prohibited Acts and Imposition of Penalties. The following acts shall be subject to penalties as set out in the applicable law and regulation:

- 3.1 adulteration of petroleum fuel products, including failure to meet the required product specifications; and
- 3.2 all other prohibited acts punishable under other laws and regulations.

Section 4. Separability Clause. Should any provision of this DC be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, such parts that are not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. All other rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this DC are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity. This DC shall take effect immediately after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation. A copy of this DC shall be filed with the University of the Philippines Law Center - Office of the National Administrative Register (UPLC-ONAR).

Issued this JAN 28 2025 at the DOE, Energy Center, Rizal Drive cor. 34th Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila.


RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA
Secretary

