

02 July 2019

FOBAS update: US Coast Guard Marine Safety Bulletin

Applicability: All ship owners and operators

United States Coast Guard (USCG) recently issued a bulletin outlining changes to the notification procedure to the US authorities about the non-availability of a compliant fuel. The safety bulletin can be accessed [here](#).

It appears that US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) will no longer accept the fuel oil non-availability reports (FONAR) and these reports should now be directed to USCG for their attention which also serve as attending inspection agency. In such cases, vessel still need to demonstrate that they have taken all possible measures to procure a compliant fuel and authorities will take into consideration the evidence put forward before they decide appropriate course of action.

As with the reporting format, it has been advised that there is no set format however ships may wish to use the template provided in appendix 1 of Resolution MEPC.320(74).

It is also recommended that in case of any doubt, further guidance is sought from the relevant administration. Records should be kept up-to-date relating to any necessary fuel oil change-overs, procurements, contacts with suppliers, recording the date and time of entering and exiting the emission control area.

If you require any further information about this Bulletin, please contact us at fobas@lr.org or speak to one of our consultants on +44 (0)330 414 1000 (Southampton UK), +44 (0)1642 440991 Redcar (UK), +65 3163 0888 (Singapore), +30 210 4580 874 (Greece).