



**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**IMPLEMENTING 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, plan, and implement comprehensive programs for the efficient supply and economical use of energy consistent with the approved national economic plan, 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 26 of RA 8749, otherwise known as the “Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999,” directs the DOE, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and in consultation with the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and other stakeholders, to set the specifications for all types of fuel and fuel-related products, and prescribing penalties for violations thereof;

**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 Interests and National Security Involving Petroleum and/or Petroleum Products, Prescribing Penalties Therefor and For Other Purposes,” prescribes penalties for the adulteration of petroleum products;

**WHEREAS**, Section V General Provision of MARINA MC No. SR 2020-06 with subject “Rules and Regulations on the Mandatory Use of 0.50% m/m Sulphur Limit on Fuel Oil for all Philippine Registered Ships in Compliance to Annex VI of MARPOL 73/78, as amended” which provides that all Philippine registered ships plying in domestic trade shall comply with 0.50% m/m fuel oil sulphur content limit by 01 January 2025;

**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**, on \_\_\_\_\_, the BPS promulgated the PNS/DOE ISO/FDIS 8217:2024 (ISO published \_\_\_\_\_): Products from petroleum, synthetic and renewable sources – Fuels (class F) – Specifications of marine fuels, as the current separate standard specifications for marine fuel oil;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing, the DOE hereby requires all Downstream Oil Industry (DOI) participants engaged in the bunker trading / sale of marine fuel oil to comply with the following:

**Section 1. Product Quality Standard Implementation.**

All marine fuel oil sold in the country shall comply with PNS/DOE ISO/FDIS 8217:2024 (ISO published \_\_\_\_\_): Products from petroleum, synthetic and renewable sources – Fuels (class F) – Specifications of marine fuels.

**Section 2. Product Quality Monitoring.**

The DOE shall conduct random quality sampling and testing of marine fuel oil obtained from the downstream oil 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 the fines and penalties set out in the applicable law or regulation:

- 3.1. Prohibited acts punishable under Section 2(b) of BP 33, as amended by PD 1865; and
- 3.2. Prohibited acts punishable under Part XIII, Rule LVI of the DENR Administrative Order No. 81, Series of 2000, known as "Implementing Rules and Regulations for RA 8749"

**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 6. Repealing Clause.**

All other rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Department Circular are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 7. Effectivity.**

This Department Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation. A copy of this circular shall be filed with the University of the Philippines Law Center-Office of the National Administrative Register (UPLC-ONAR).

Issued on \_\_\_\_\_ at the DOE, Energy Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

**RAPHAEL P. M. LOTILLA**  
**Secretary**