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**ACE Paper 22/2023**

***For information on 6 November 2023***

**Proposal on Tightening the Sulphur Content Limits of Marine Light Diesel and Industrial Diesel and Lifting the Restriction on Use of Liquid Fuel and Solid Fuel in Sha Tin Fuel Restriction Area**

**Background Note**

**PURPOSE**

This paper provides background information to the “Proposal on Tightening the Sulphur Content Limits of Marine Light Diesel and Industrial Diesel and Lifting the Restriction on Use of Liquid Fuel and Solid Fuel in Sha Tin Fuel Restriction Area” (*ACE Paper 20/2023*) for discussion at the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) meeting on 9 October 2023.

**BACKGROUND**

The Air Pollution Control (Marine Light Diesel) Regulation (Cap. 311Y)

2. In 2013, to reduce marine emissions, the Government proposed to introduce new Regulations to control the quality of local marine light diesel (“MLD”) by mandating the sulphur content of locally supplied MLD not exceeding 0.05%. The proposal was discussed during the 192<sup>nd</sup> ACE meeting on 22 April 2013. Members were supportive of the proposal and suggested the Government to explore the feasibility to further tighten the diesel standard in future. The Air Pollution Control (Marine Light Diesel) Regulation (Cap. 311Y) (“the MLD Regulation”) was then enacted in 2014.

The Air Pollution Control (Fuel Restriction) Regulations (Cap.311I)

3 In 1990, the Air Pollution Control (Fuel Restriction) Regulations (Cap.311I) (“the FR Regulations”) was enacted which stipulated that only industrial diesel having a sulphur content not exceeding 0.5% could be used in industrial and commercial processes. Also, under the FR Regulations, the use of solid and liquid fuel, except in construction site and in the event of emergency, are

prohibited in Sha Tin Fuel Restriction Area (“STFRA”) to protect the Sha Tin District against air pollution due to the industrial emissions in Sha Tin coupled with the trapping effects by the topographical features of Sha Tin valley.

4 In 2008, the FR Regulations was proposed to be amended to tighten the cap on the sulphur content of industrial diesel to 0.005%. The proposal was discussed during the 148<sup>th</sup> ACE meeting on 14 January 2008. Members were supportive of the proposal which could help further improve the air quality in Hong Kong. The proposed amendment was enacted in the same year.

The proposal to be discussed

5 In the upcoming meeting, the Environment and Ecology Bureau would brief Members on the proposal to amend the MLD Regulation and the FR Regulations to tighten the sulphur content limits of MLD and industrial diesel to no more than 0.001% and to lift the restriction on use of liquid and solid fuel in STFRA.

6. For Members’ easy reference, a table setting out the papers and minutes of relevant ACE meetings is appended below –

<b>Relevant ACE Meeting</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Relevant paper/ minutes</b>
148 <sup>th</sup> ACE Meeting on 14 January 2008	Mandating the Use of Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel in Industrial and Commercial Processes	● <a href="#">ACE Paper 2/2008</a> ● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a>
192 <sup>nd</sup> ACE Meeting on 22 April 2013	Upgrading the Diesel Standard for Local Vessels	● <a href="#">ACE Paper 6/2013</a> ● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a>

**ACE Secretariat**  
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