

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 2014 No. 147**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of the Environment to accompany the above named Statutory Rule which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2 The Statutory Rule is made under the European Communities Act 1972(1) and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.
- 1.3 The Rule is due to come into operation on 18 June 2014.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1 These Regulations amend the Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007 (“the 2007 regulations”) which implement in Northern Ireland, matters concerning heavy fuel oil and gas oil (except marine fuel), in Council Directive 1999/32/EC (OJ L 121, 11.5.1999, p. 13) relating to a reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels and amending Council Directive 93/12/EEC. The amendments to the 2007 regulations transpose amendments to Council Directive 1999/32/EC made by Directive 2012/33/EU (OJ L 327, 27.11.2012, p. 1) of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the sulphur content of marine fuels.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 These amending Regulations were made to implement European Directives which limit the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels in order to further one of the Community's objectives, which is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to contribute towards protecting human health, by rectifying environmental damage at source

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 No public consultation has been carried out for these Regulations. The Regulations do not introduce any new obligations, offences or penalties.

#### **5. Equality Impact**

- 5.1 Equality Impact Screenings carried out in respect of these proposals found no evidence of any differential impact on any of the section 75 categories.

#### **6. Regulatory Impact**

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(1) 1972. c.68.

6.1 A regulatory impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no impact on the private or voluntary sector is foreseen.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 The amending Regulations will not result in any new costs.

## **8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

8.1 The Department considers that the legislation complies with the requirements of section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

## **9. EU Implications**

9.1 This transposes parts of Directive 2012/33/EU (OJ L 327, 27.11.2012, p. 1) of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the sulphur content of marine fuels.

## **10. Parity or Replicatory Measure**

10.1 England, Wales and Scotland are making equivalent amendments to their respective regulations.

## **11. Additional Information**

11.1 Not applicable.