

SUMMARY OF S. 1499
MARINE VESSEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

- Requires significant reductions in emissions of air pollutants from marine vessels that contribute to dangerous smog and soot pollution.
- EPA is to limit the sulfur content of fuel used by domestic and foreign-flagged marine vessels when they enter or leave U.S. ports beginning December 31, 2010.
 - EPA must set the limit at no more than 1,000 parts per million *unless* EPA determines that such a level is not technically feasible by December 31, 2010.
 - EPA may set an interim standard as high as 2,000 parts per million, but must lower the standard to 1,000 parts per million by the earliest date that level is achievable.
 - Many marine vessels currently burn fuel with an average sulfur content of 27,000 parts per million.
- EPA is to set standards for new and in-use engines in domestic and foreign-flagged oceangoing vessels that enter or leave U.S. ports. The standards are to require the maximum degree of emission reduction achievable by no later than January 1, 2012.
 - EPA is to require the same level of emission control achieved by similar engines in other types of vehicles or sources *unless* EPA determines that level is not achievable by marine engines by January 1, 2012.
 - If EPA makes that determination, it is to set a second tier of more stringent standards to apply beginning January 1, 2016.

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