

Sulphur Directive

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| Official reference | Directive (EU) 2016/802 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 relating to a reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels (codification) | |
| Relevant dates | Document | 11/05/2016 * |
| | Publication | 21/05/2016 |
| | Entry into force | 10/06/2016 |
| | Implementation by Belgium | 7/03/2001 ** |
| Policy level | European | |
| Type of instrument | Directive | |
| Geographical reach | EU Member States | |
| European contact point | Directorate-General Environment (DG ENV); Directorate-General Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE); Directorate-General Climate (DG CLIMA) | |
| Competent authorities in Belgium | Federal government; FPS Mobility and Transport; DG Shipping | |
| Transposition on the federal level ** | Koninklijk besluit van 7 maart 2001 betreffende de benaming, de kenmerken en het zwavelgehalte van de gasolie voor de zeescheepvaart | |

* Council Directive 1999/32/EC has been substantially amended several times. In the interests of clarity and rationality, the directive was codified.

** Transposition of Directive 1999/32/EC on the federal level.

// abstract:

Maritime emissions from the combustion of marine fuels with a high sulphur content contribute to air pollution in the form of sulphur dioxide and particulates, which are harmful to human health and the environment and contribute to acid deposition. The purpose of this directive is to reduce emissions of sulphur dioxide resulting from the combustion of certain types of liquid fuels (heavy fuel oil, gas oil, marine fuel) and thus to reduce the harmful effects of such emissions on humans and the environment.

The emissions of sulphur dioxide from the combustion of certain petroleum-derived liquid fuels are reduced by setting limits on the sulphur content of those fuels as a condition for their use within the territory, territorial seas, exclusive economic zones and pollution control areas of the Member States. Article 1 also lists the circumstances in which the provisions of this directive do not apply. It also lays down matters relating to sampling, reporting, penalties, etc.