

6th Marine Fuels Committee Meeting Summary

The 6th meeting of the Marine Fuels Committee meeting for the 2023/2025 term convened at SSA boardroom on 24 February 2025 at 10:00am. The Marine Fuels Committee meeting began with a welcome from the Chairman, followed by confirmation of the minutes from the 5th meeting held on 14 October 2024, which were accepted without further comments.

The Committee then discussed the upcoming Biofuels Seminar 2025, which will now accommodate 500 participants due to increasing interest from SSA members. The seminar will focus on biofuels and alternative fuels, with members suggesting broader coverage on certified biofuels, alternative feedstocks, and addressing practical issues such as engine compatibility and insurance. Case studies from shipowners and insurers were also recommended for inclusion.

Methanol-related concerns, particularly regulatory uncertainty in Singapore compared to more active markets like China and Korea, were noted and will be addressed in a separate session. SSA will proceed with planning the seminar for May 2025 and will launch the annual marine fuel survey covering biofuels, methanol, LNG, and conventional fuels to support the seminar's direction.

Members were updated on meetings with MPA and banks regarding the e-BDN record verification facility, with meeting notes already circulated. The Committee also discussed fuel sampling issues, particularly the operational challenges surrounding B3 sampling restrictions. Concerns were raised that current MPA guidance may prevent suppliers from retaining proper reference samples in dispute scenarios. SSA will compile feedback from members such as Trafigura and Global Marine for a formal submission to MPA requesting regulatory clarification and support for resolving fuel quality disputes.

Under any other business, members noted Singapore's proposal for a carbon tax levy, aligned with the Fuel EU initiative. SSA will continue engagement with MPA through pre- and post-MEPC briefings. The Chairman also raised concerns about anchorage space limitations due to increased bunkering operations, especially as alternative fuel uptake grows. Although no major increase in new barge arrivals was noted, the matter will be monitored.

Members also highlighted the lack of emergency response procedures for alternative fuels; SSA will continue to engage with members on this issue. Additionally, the Digitalisation Committee has launched a survey to assess AI readiness in maritime operations, which has been circulated to all members. The next Marine Fuels Committee meeting is scheduled for 26 May 2025 at 10:00 AM in the SSA Board Room.

With no further matters discussed, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Singapore, 24 Feb 2025
