



MEDIA RELEASE

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Singapore launches new standard on methanol bunkering, paves way for maritime industry's transition to sustainable alternative fuels

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG), through the Singapore Standards Council (SSC), have published a **new Technical Reference (TR) 129 on Methanol Bunkering** to provide a comprehensive framework for the safe and efficient use of methanol as an alternative fuel for bunkering operations. This marks an important step towards operationalising methanol bunkering at scale and driving Singapore's ambitions as a sustainable, multi-fuel bunkering hub.

2. TR 129 sets out requirements covering safe handling, transfer, and measurement of methanol in bunkering operations. These include:

- Custody transfer requirements, comprising quantity and quality measurements for ship-to-ship methanol bunkering operations;
- Operational and safety requirements for the delivery of methanol from a bunker tanker to receiving vessels, including a framework for crew training and competencies; and
- Guidance on the use of mass flow meters (MFM) to ensure accurate quantity management and digital documentation for bunkering.

3. TR 129 was developed by the Working Group (WG) on Methanol Bunkering, supported by the Standards Development Organisation at Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SDO@SCIC). The WG comprises government agencies, research institutes, and industry stakeholders such as bunker suppliers, bunker craft operators, engine manufacturers, testing and certification bodies, shipowners and operators, among others.

4. Mr David Foo, MPA Assistant Chief Executive (Operations/Operations Technology), said, "The development of the Technical Reference 129 on the safe and efficient use of methanol for bunkering in Singapore is the result of the collective efforts by government agencies, industry partners, and research institutes. It provides clear guidelines to support the safe adoption of methanol as a marine fuel and gives the industry greater confidence in their transition to use of sustainable fuels."



5. Ms Choy Sauw Kook, Director-General (Quality & Excellence), Enterprise Singapore, said, “Singapore’s reputation as one of the world’s leading bunkering hubs has always been underscored by our commitment to deliver safe, reliable and industry-first bunkering services. Standards and conformance have played an important role in establishing this strong foundation and will continue to be a key lever for us to meet industry needs and advance the growth of our maritime sector. TR 129 will help to equip our local operators with not only the capabilities, but confidence to carry out methanol bunkering operations, and pave the way towards a multi-fuel future in Singapore.”

6. Following the completion of the world’s first ship-to-container ship methanol bunkering operation in July 2023, MPA also conducted the first simultaneous methanol bunkering and cargo operations in May 2024 at Tuas Port with the use of the MFM system for methanol and digital bunkering. The learnings and experience gained, including in fuelling procedure, crew training, and emergency responses, contributed to the development of TR 129.

7. Interested parties can learn more on the standard and its implementation at an upcoming seminar, taking place on the sidelines of the Singapore Maritime Week 2025. More information can be found at <https://scic.sg/index.php/en/#upcoming>.

8. TR 129 can be purchased from the Singapore Standards e-shop (<https://www.singaporestandardseshop.sg/>).

<End of Release>

For media queries, please contact:

Ms Serene Liu

Corporate Communications, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

Email: media_enquiries@mpa.gov.sg

Enterprise Singapore

Ms Lydia Lee

Corporate Communications, Enterprise Singapore

Email : lydia_lee@enterprisesg.gov.sg



About the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)

MPA was established on 2 February 1996 with the mission to develop Singapore as a premier global hub port and international maritime centre, and to advance and safeguard Singapore's strategic maritime interests. MPA is the driving force behind Singapore's maritime and port development, taking on the roles of maritime and port regulator and planner, international maritime centre champion, national maritime representative, and a champion of digitalisation and decarbonisation efforts at regional and international fora such as at the International Maritime Organization and the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation. MPA partners industry, research community and other agencies to enhance safety, security, and environmental protection, facilitate maritime and port operations and growth, expand multi-domain capabilities, and support the cluster of maritime ancillary services and manpower development. MPA is responsible for the overall development and growth of the maritime multi-domain and the Port of Singapore.

For more information, please visit www.mpa.gov.sg/

About Enterprise Singapore

Enterprise Singapore is the government agency championing enterprise development. We work with committed companies to build capabilities, innovate and internationalise. We also support the growth of Singapore as a hub for global trading and startups, and build trust in Singapore's products and services through quality and standards.

Visit www.enterprisesg.gov.sg for more information.

About Singapore Standards Council

The Singapore Standards Council (SSC) facilitates the development, promotion and review of Standards and Technical References in Singapore. This work is done through partnerships with the industry, academia and government organisations, under the national standardisation programme overseen by Enterprise Singapore.

Visit www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/standards for more information.