

# Southern Currents



## Notice to the Area Port of New Orleans Trade Community

Date: March 28, 2023

No: 23-016

**SUBJECT: “De-Bunkering” Guidance for Bunkers Loaded and Returned on the Same Vessel in the New Orleans Tri Port**

**Bunker:** Petroleum products loaded aboard “taken on” a vessel for consumption by that vessel. Bunkers are not considered cargo for customs purposes.

If a vessel master loads “takes on” bunkers in the New Orleans Tri-Port and then decides to return the product to the same vendor, at the same location where the bunkers were loaded, the procedures below should be followed. *Traditionally vessel bunkers are returned because they are determined to be “off-spec.”*

*Reference: 19 CFR §10.1(a)(b) & (c)*

**Notification:** Prior to the vessel returning to port to remove the bunkers, the Port Marine Division should be notified containing the information below on company letterhead.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the articles herein specified were exported from the United States, from the port of \_\_\_\_\_ on or about \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, and that they are returned without having been advanced in value or improved in condition by any process of manufacture or other means.

Provide a description of the product (*Marine Gas Oil, Marine Diesel Oil, Marine Fuel Oil, Intermediate Fuel Oil, Heavy Fuel Oil, etc.*), the quantity and value.

Provide the reason for the vessel bunkers being returned.

Provide the name of the vendor and the location (*dock, terminal, pier, anchorage*) where the vessel bunkers were loaded and subsequently will be returned. *Vessel bunkers must be returned to the same location.*

There is no requirement to “manifest” vessel bunkers.

Submit the letter to the New Orleans Marine Division via email at:  
[gmb.neworleansmarinedesk@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:gmb.neworleansmarinedesk@cbp.dhs.gov)

Direct questions about this trade notice to Chief Denise Emmer at  
[denise.emmer@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:denise.emmer@cbp.dhs.gov) or office telephone (504) 670-2052.

Mark S. Choina  
Assistant Port Director  
New Orleans, Louisiana