

## Legal issues in bunkering: Review

The rudiments of maritime law can often seem challenging but a new book manages to explain them in an amusing and engaging light.

*Legal issues in bunkering* offers an introduction to the laws dealing with the sale and use of marine fuels.

Written by marine lawyer Trevor Harrison the book offers a highly accessible overview of this complex topic. Award-winning lawyer Jonathan Lux of Ince and Co says, "It covers legal issues one might expect to find in a volume 10 times larger, distilling the salient points and thankfully summarising the more arcane bits."

The language is simple. "It is difficult to lay down hard and fast rules about the legal aspects of bunkering," Harrison admits, as "there are too many variables."

He pulls out the stops from the start, even defining what bunkers are (ship's fuel that can include oil, coal, gas and anything else that will help a ship generate power).

Other chapters cover subjects like *the basics of the law contract, particular features of bunker contracts; what sellers include in their terms and conditions, defaults, ship arrest* and a useful section which deals with international conventions.

Throughout, Harrison is considered and makes no assumptions even offering a chapter entitled '*Introduction and note about the IMO*' outlining how the IMO's committees operate in relation to bunkering, and how procedures tend to unravel.

A further chapter is dedicated to the MARPOL Convention, which Harrison points out is divided into six annexes, most notably Annex VI which concerns itself with pollution of the air. This is particularly relevant to bunkering, because the broad purpose of Annex VI is to set limit on sulphur oxide (SOX) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from ship exhausts. Harrison outlines which regulations within Annex VI apply to bunkering operations and what flag states may authorise. The chapter is packed with examples so that the reader understands what the MARPOL Convention really means and how to work within its parameters. For these kinds of reasons, the book is extremely helpful. There are also almost 40 pages of appendices at the back of the book, and an index. Overall, this is an insightful must-read for business people involved in bunkering.

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