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Challenges of Berthing in Ports with Alternative Ship Fuels

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Ports and Alternative Fuel-Powered Vessels



Methanol

References:

https://maritime-executive.com/article/japanese-shipping-makes-progress-on-ammonia-fueled-ship-design https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/x-press-feeders-orders-up-to-8-methanol-dual-fuel-boxships-at-huangpu-wenchong https://www.offshore-energy.biz/rina-okays-aurelias-100-hydrogen-powered-roro-design/

• Safety Challenges

Legal and Regulatory Framework







Under the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/chemicals/classifying-chemicals/using-ghs

Mitigations



Example: Liquid hydrogen leakage

Reference: Fan, H.; Xu, X.; Abdussamie, N.; Chen, P.S.-L.; Harris, A. Comparative study of LNG, liquid hydrogen, and liquid ammonia post-release evaporation and dispersion during bunkering. *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy* **2024**, **65**, **526-539**, *doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhydene.2024.04.039*.

- Zoning and Separation
 - Dedicated Berthing Areas
 - Advanced Detection and Monitoring Systems
 - Training
 - Multi-Fuel bunkering operations
 - Emergency Response and Preparedness

Safety Challenges

Legal and Regulatory Framework



International Regulations and Standards



IGF CODE

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SAFETY FOR SHIPS USING GASES OR OTHER LOW-FLASHPOINT FUELS

2016 EDITION



- Methanol
- Ammonia (under draft)
- Hydrogen (under draft)





- LNG
- Methanol (gap)
- Ammonia (gap)
- Hydrogen (some standards have been developed, like LH₂ loading arms, but insufficient)

Port State Control (PSC) Inspections

National and Port Regulations



ENVIRONMENTAL

Permits

 Local Environmental Regulations



PROTOCOLS O

- Workplace Health and Safety Regulations
- Ports' specialised protocols



Safety Challenges

Legal and Regulatory Framework



Port Congestion and Traffic Management



- Coordinating vessel arrivals to prevent traffic congestion and reduce the risk of accidents
- May require imposing restrictions on vessel movements and limiting access to certain port areas during bunkering operations

Fuel Supply Chain



Ports should have reliable supply chains for the alternative fuels, which can be challenging given the current limited production capacity for hydrogen, ammonia, and methanol.

References:

https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1137516/Ammonia-hype-builds-in-shipping-market/

https://www.offshore-energy.biz/partners-eye-open-access-green-ammonia-import-terminal-at-port-of-antwerp-bruges/

Port Infrastructure



phase in alternative fuel infrastructure gradually

- Short term: LNG, Methanol
- Long term: Ammonia, Hydrogen



Safety Challenges

Risk-based measures

Legal and Regulatory Framework

- International regulations & standards (gaps)
- National regulations
- Port protocols

- Port congestion and traffic management (safety relevant)
- Fuel supply chain (bunkering availability)
- Port infrastructure (phase in)

Thank you !

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