

MASS FLOW METER BUNKER MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

MANDATORY FROM 1 JANUARY 2026



From 1 January 2026, the use of a Mass Flow Meter (MFM) system will be mandatory on board bunker vessels supplying residual distillates (fuel oil and marine diesel oil) and biofuels in the ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp-Bruges. This system measures precisely how much fuel is transferred from the bunker vessel to the sea-going vessel. The aim is to make the bunker market in both ports more reliable, efficient and transparent.

Why this measure?

The port authorities of Rotterdam and Antwerp-Bruges have encountered frequent issues with bunker fuel deliveries. Research by CE Delft and others has confirmed that there are structural quantity discrepancies in the bunker market. Consequently, the installation of Mass Flow Meter (MFM) systems on board bunker vessels is being made mandatory.

What are the requirements for MFM systems?

The ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp-Bruges adhere to the same MFM system requirements as other ports worldwide, as outlined in the international ISO 22192 standard. However, Rotterdam and Antwerp-Bruges cannot apply all parts of this standard due to European regulations.

The goal remains unchanged: the use of an MFM system is mandatory in these ports, just like it is in the Port of Singapore. The systems employed in Singapore are likewise mandatory in Rotterdam and Antwerp-Bruges.

The fuel supply licence also stipulates that the general rules and operation procedures for bunkering (with the MFM system) align with the ISO standard. Again, there is no difference compared to other ports where an ISO 22192-compliant MFM system is mandatory.

What additional requirements does a bunker vessel have to meet?

In addition to the requirements for the MFM system, bunker vessel owners in Rotterdam must meet additional criteria. They must have a Certificate of Good Conduct for legal entities (VOG RP). This document, issued by the central government, confirms the integrity of the company. The application process examines whether the company and its key personnel have any legal infringements.

The role of bunker surveyors

Bunker surveyors continue to play a vital role in bunkering, even with the mandatory implementation of the MFM system. However, their responsibilities are evolving. It is essential that bunker surveyors stay informed about developments related to the MFM system. The International Bunker Industry Association (IBIA) offers specialised training on the MFM system in Rotterdam and Antwerp. When engaging a bunker surveyor, the ports recommend selecting one who is thoroughly trained and qualified.

Enforcement

The bunker licence, including the MFM system, is not optional. The regulations must be strictly adhered to. Regulators will conduct random inspections on board bunker vessels as well as investigations prompted by market signals. Please note that certification and submission of the MFM system to the Harbour Master must be completed before 1 January 2026. Failure to comply may result in fines or revocation of the bunker licence.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the MFM obligation, please do not hesitate to contact us at: bunkering@portofrotterdam.com or bunkering@portofantwerp-bruges.com