

U.S. House of Reps. OKs bill to cut ship pollution

Reuters
Monday, March 26, 2007; 11:02 PM

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation late on Monday to cut polluting emissions spewed by ships powered by diesel fuel.

Under the House bill, the U.S. Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency would be given the authority to develop and enforce emission limits on the thousands of domestic and foreign-flagged vessels that enter U.S. waters each year.

The legislation would bring U.S. ship emission standards and requirements in line with pollution regulations followed by other countries.

Those regulations were adopted by the International Maritime Organization in 1997 to limit sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from ship exhausts that deplete the Earth's ozone.

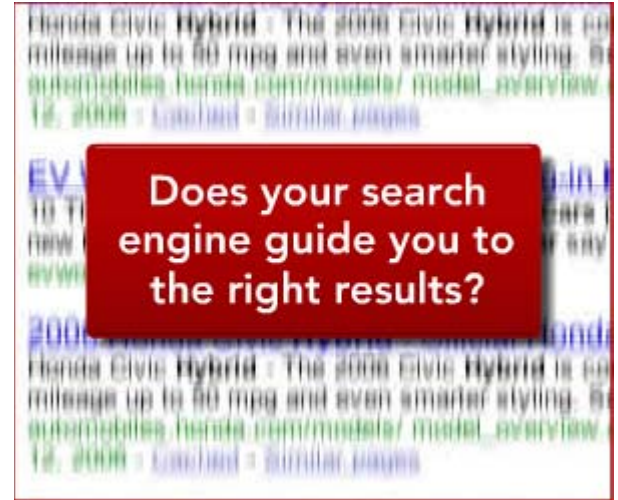
The organization's regulations entered into force internationally in 2005 and the U.S. Senate adopted the treaty the following year.

Ocean-going vessels produce more sulfur dioxide emissions than all the world's cars, trucks and buses combined, according to a new report from the International Council on Clean Transportation, made up of transportation and air quality officials and experts from around the world.

The study shows that the sulfur content of marine fuel is far greater than highway diesel fuel. Ships use fuel with an average sulfur content of 27,000 parts per million (ppm) compared to just 10 to 15 ppm for road fuels in Europe, Japan and the United States.

[Rep. James Oberstar](#), the bill's co-sponsor, said he hoped the U.S. Senate would quickly pass the House legislation and send it to President George W. Bush to sign into law.

Advertisement



The advertisement features a red rectangular box with white text that reads: "Does your search engine guide you to the right results?". The background of the ad is a blurred screenshot of a search engine results page, showing snippets of text from various search results, including one for a 2006 Honda Civic Hybrid. The text in the background is partially legible and includes phrases like "Honda Civic Hybrid", "The 2006 Civic Hybrid is on", "mileage up to 40 mpg and even smarter styling.", and "automobiles.honda.com/model/model_overview/12_2006".

© 2007 Reuters

Ads by Google

Health Insurance

Get Quotes. Compare Plans. Apply. Come to eHealthInsurance & Save!

www.eHealthInsurance.com