

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**CRIMINAL SYNDICATE CONVICTED OF TAMPERING WITH
MASS FLOW METERS TO CHEAT OVER US\$300K WORTH OF
MARINE FUEL OIL**

Nine members of a criminal syndicate have been convicted in 2020 and 2021 for offences under the Computer Misuse Act, for using industrial strength magnets to tamper with the Mass Flow Meter (“**MFM**”) equipment on board bunker tankers Southernpec 6 and Southernpec 7 to cheat buyers of marine fuel oil (“**MFO**”). The buyers were cheated of US\$336,930.63 worth of MFO in total. The matter was jointly investigated by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (“**MPA**”) and the Singapore Police Force (“**SPF**”).

2 The outcomes of the cases against three masterminds and six cargo officers are set out in the table below:

S/N	Name (Alias)	Role	Date of sentencing	Sentence
1	Ang Heng Lye (Eric)	Mastermind	21 June 2021	35 months’ imprisonment
2	Tay Tien Whui (Jason)	Mastermind	4 August 2021	34 months and 2 weeks’ imprisonment
3	Kek Kah Hui (Dylan)	Mastermind	26 June 2021	34 months’ imprisonment
4	Ang Heng Chye	Cargo officer	26 August 2020	19 months’ imprisonment
5	Heng Meng Wee, Stanley	Cargo officer	28 July 2021	18 months and 2 weeks’ imprisonment

S/N	Name (Alias)	Role	Date of sentencing	Sentence
6	Leong Wai Chew, Lionel	Cargo officer	27 July 2021	13 months' imprisonment
7	Chua Yew Hui, Andy	Cargo officer	9 June 2020	9 months' imprisonment
8	Chua Yan Jing, Gab	Cargo officer	30 September 2020	7 months' imprisonment
9	Kek Kah Hee	Cargo officer	13 November 2020	2 weeks' imprisonment

3 To uphold the integrity of the bunker process in the Port of Singapore, MPA has mandated the use of MFMs for the delivery of MFO as it provides assurance to both buyers and suppliers on the delivered quantity of MFO, and enhances transparency in the bunkering process.

4 The criminal syndicate's tampering with MFMs on bunker tankers Southernpec 6 and Southernpec 7 was conceptualised by the masterminds, and carried out by the cargo officers on board. The syndicate's illegal operations were discovered during an enforcement check by MPA in April 2019. MPA revoked the bunker craft operator and bunker supplier licence of Southernpec (Singapore) Pte Ltd with effect from 8 May 2019 and 29 May 2019 respectively. The *modus operandi* of the syndicate is set out in **Annex A**.

5 The authorities take a serious view of such criminal activities and will not hesitate to take firm action against those who commit offences that undermine Singapore's international reputation as a trusted shipping and bunkering hub.

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS
MARITIME PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE
30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

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Modus Operandi of the Bunkering Fraud Syndicate

Masterminds



1. Eric, Jason and Dylan planned to tamper with the Mass Flow Meter* (*MFM*) on board the Southernpec bunker barges using industrial strength magnets

2. The masterminds supplied and taught the Cargo Officers how to use the magnets on the *MFM*

Cargo Officers



3A. The magnet caused the *MFM* to record a higher amount of fuel than what was actually delivered to the buyer vessel

3B. Stanley recruited Andy to place the magnet on the *MFM* during some of the bunkering operations

① The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and the Police Coast Guard caught Andy using the magnet during a spot check

4. To avoid detection, the Cargo Officer used duct tape that had the **same colour** as the surface of the *MFM* to disguise the use of the magnet. They later sent a text message to Dylan informing him of the amount of fuel 'saved'



6. The masterminds shared the profits earned, and paid a monthly commission to each Cargo Officer



5. The fuel supplier paid the masterminds a sum based on the fuel 'saved' from the use of the magnet

* **Mass Flow Meter** is a device used to measure the amount of fuel transferred from a bunker barge to a buyer vessel