

# Biofuels in shipping

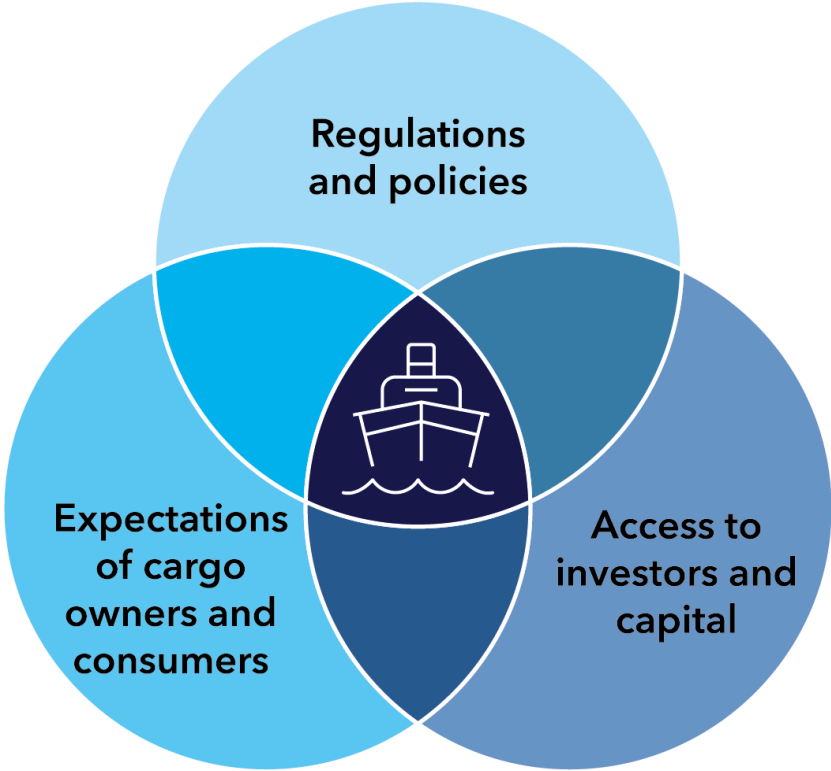
1. Drivers for decarbonization
2. Why biofuels?
3. Current marine market and use

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IEA Bioenergy TCP ExCo96 Workshop



# Key drivers for decarbonization in shipping



<p>Regulations and policies</p>	
<p>Access to investors and capital</p>	
<p>Expectation of cargo owners and consumers</p>	

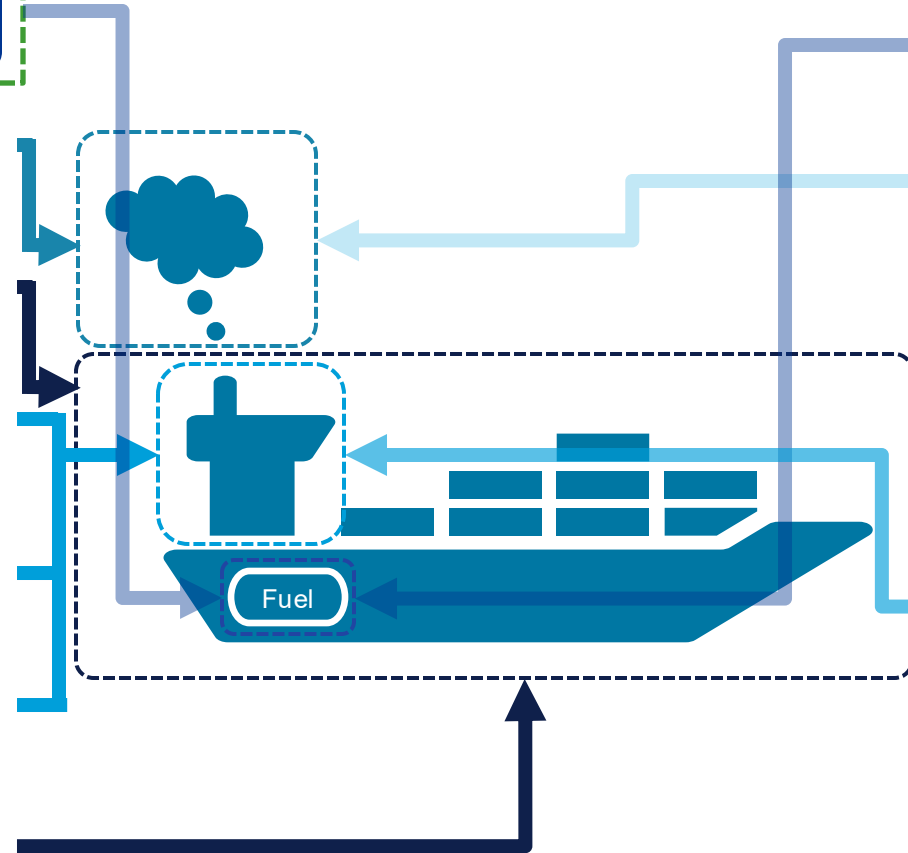
# The regulatory framework to reduce GHG emissions



*Not adopted*



<b>IMO NZF</b>	Operational requirement with financial penalty Well-to-wake GHG intensity	2029 or later
<b>CII</b>	Operational requirement Actual carbon intensity	2023
<b>EEXI</b>	Design requirement for existing ships Ideal carbon intensity	2023
<b>SEEMP III</b>	Management requirement Continuous carbon intensity improvement	2023
<b>DCS SEEMP II</b>	Reporting of actual fuel consumption and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	2019
<b>SEEMP I</b>	Management requirement Continuous energy efficiency improvement	2013
<b>EEDI</b>	Design requirements for new ships Ideal carbon intensity	2013

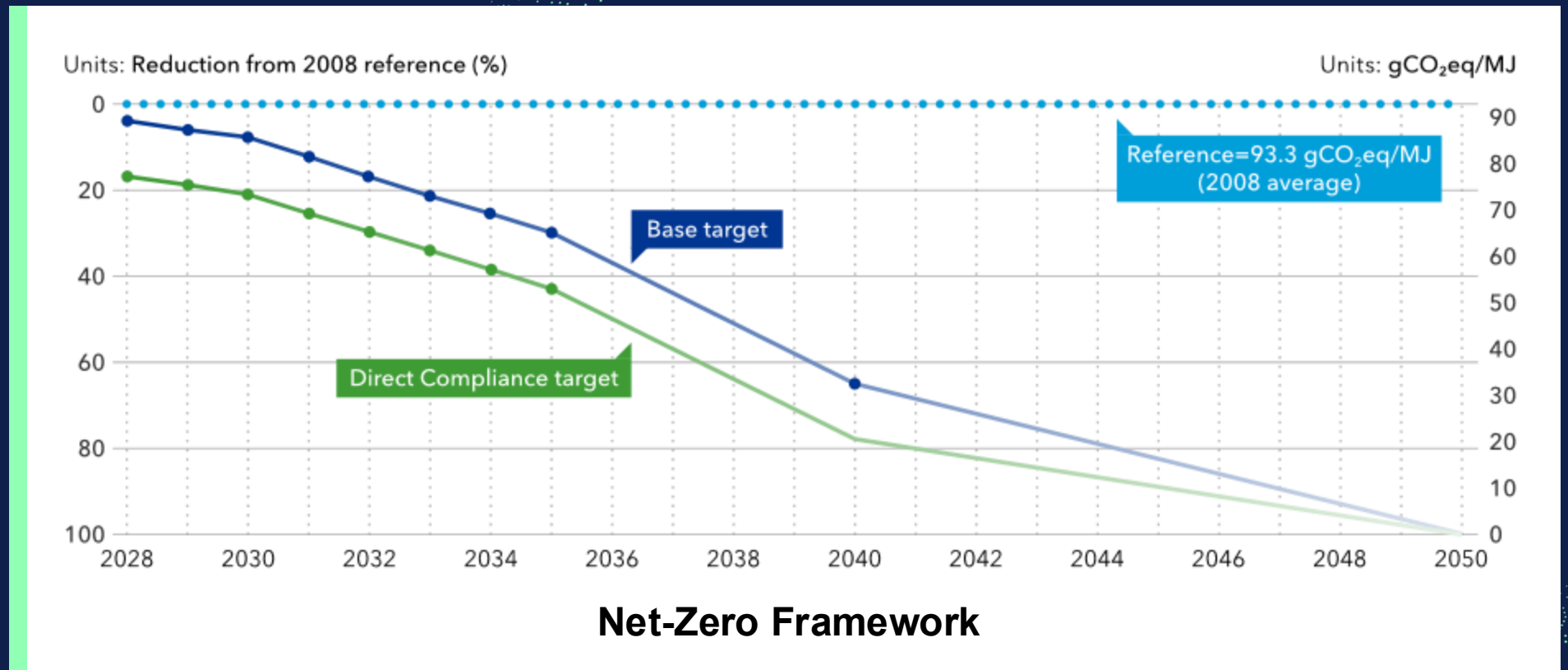


2025	Operational requirement with financial penalty Well-to-wake GHG intensity	<b>FuelEU Maritime</b>
2024	Emission cap-and-trade Sets a price on CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	<b>EU ETS</b>
2018	Reporting of actual fuel consumption and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	<b>EU MRV</b>

# The IMO postponed adoption of the first ever global pricing of GHG emissions – 10–15 BUSD per year

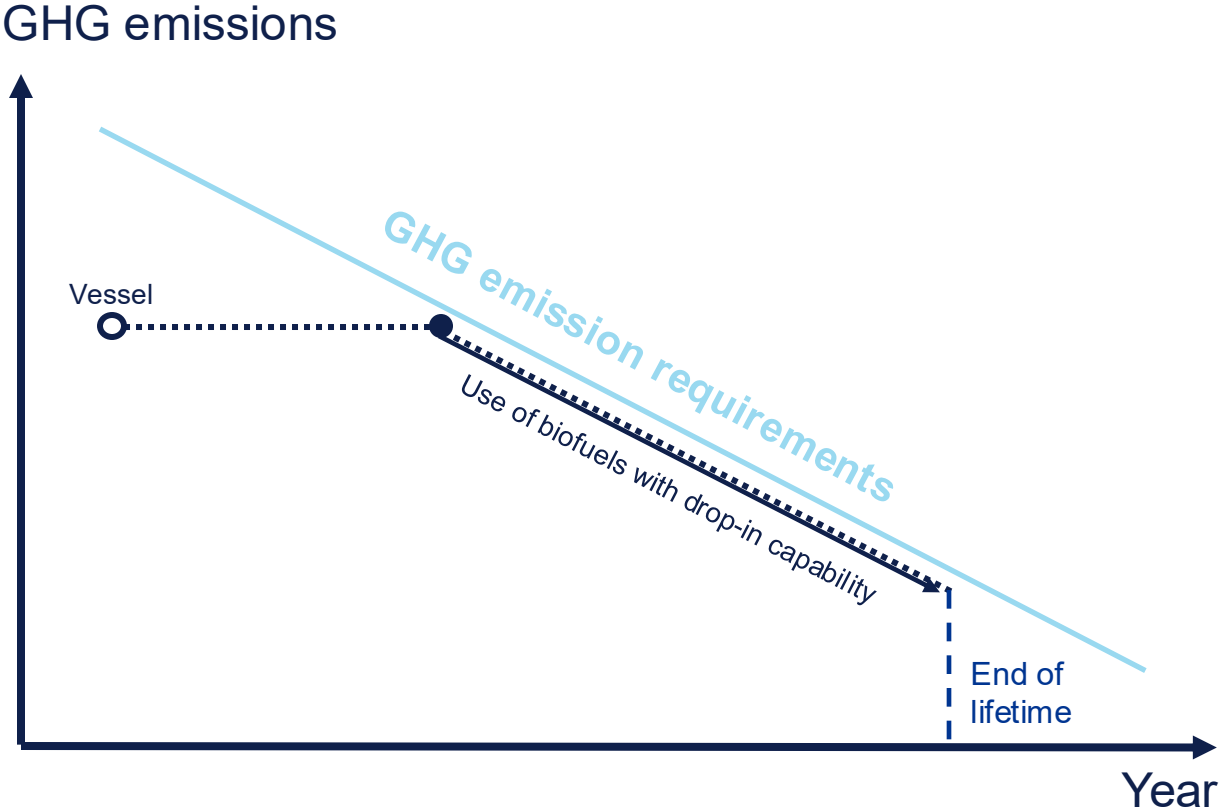
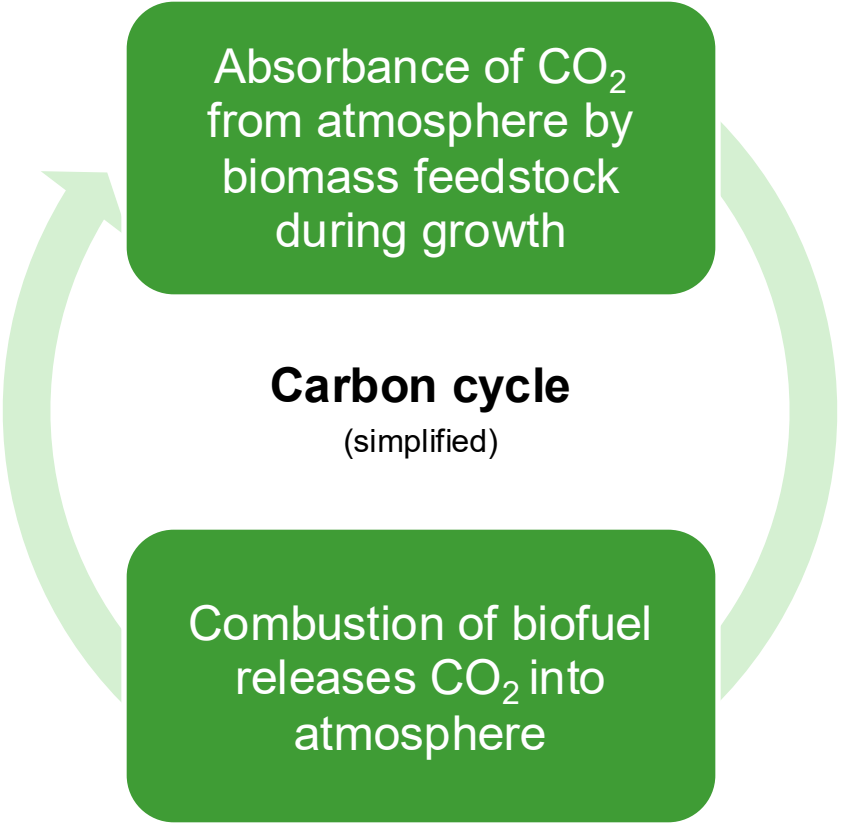
## IMO Net-Zero Framework:

- Technical GHG requirement
- Pricing if emissions per unit energy above limit
- IMO to receive 10–15 BUSD year



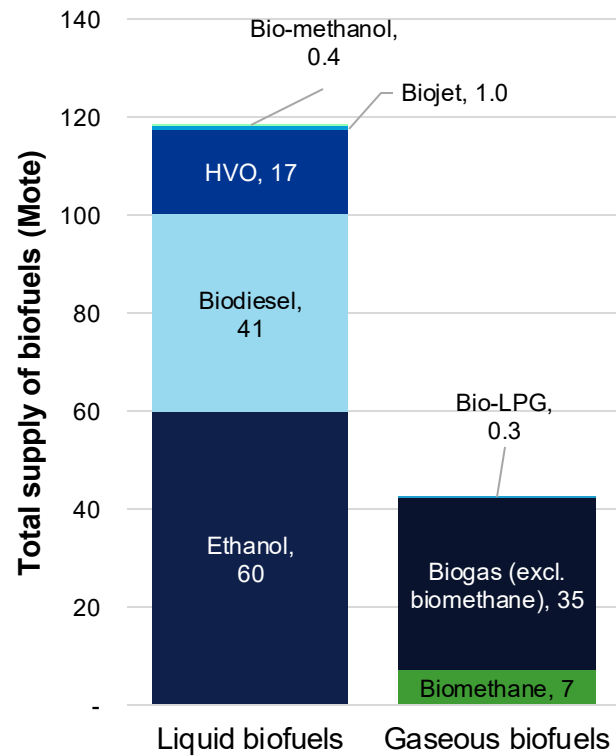
Note: the decision to adjourn the adoption of IMO NZF by one year could result in changes to the regulations, including aspects such as timeline

# Why biofuels?

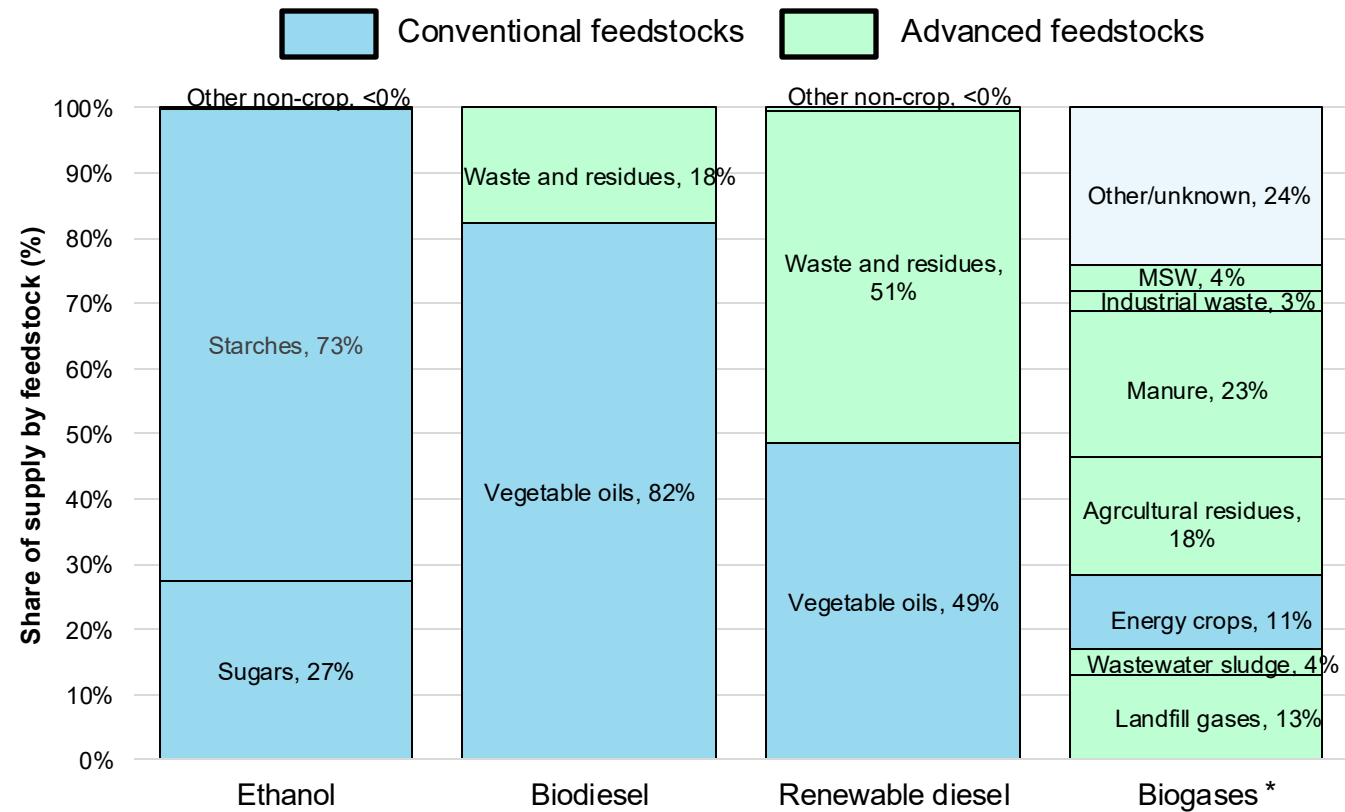


# In 2024, global supply of liquid and gaseous biofuels amounted to about 160 Mtoe

## Global biofuels supply (2024)



## Biofuel supply by feedstock-type (indicative)



Sources:

IEA (2025a), Renewables 2024 – Analysis and forecast to 2030. International Energy Agency.

IEA (2025b), Outlook for biogas and biomethane – Prospects for organic growth. International Energy Agency

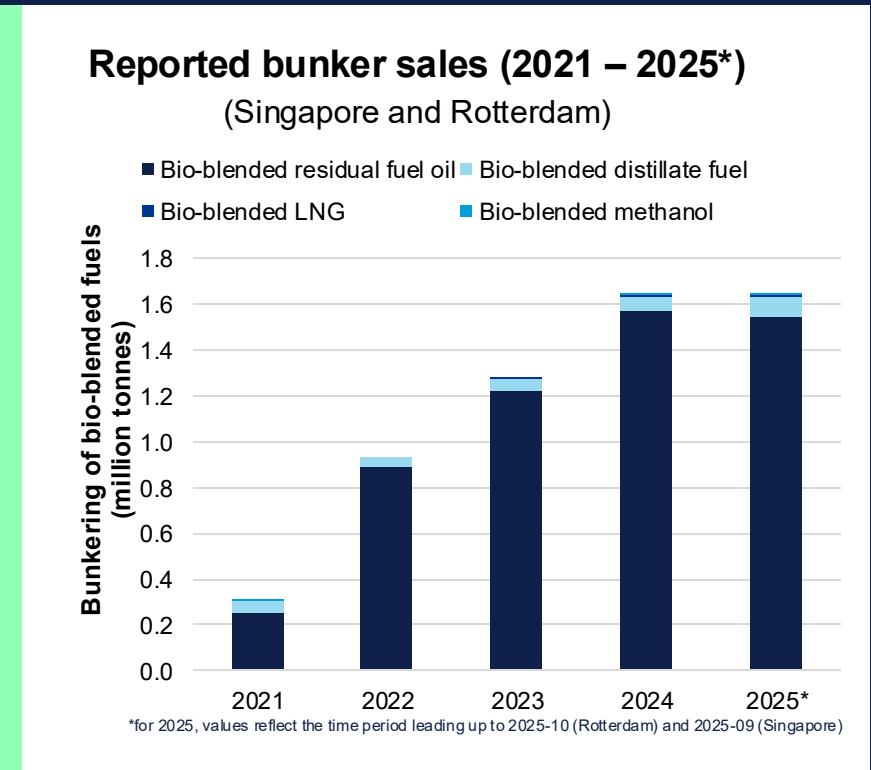
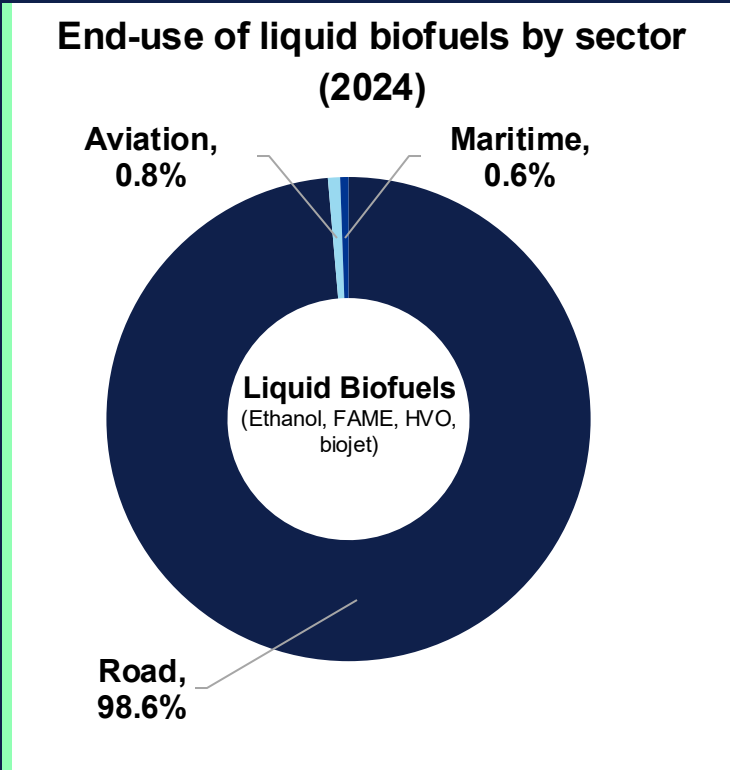
IEA (2025c), Renewable Energy Progress Tracker, <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/data-tools/renewable-energy-progress-tracker#overview>

GENA Solutions (2025). Renewable Methanol Update (October 2025), Retrieved from Renewable Methanol: [https://www.genasolutions.com/analysis\\_and\\_insights/58](https://www.genasolutions.com/analysis_and_insights/58)

Argus Media (2022). Argus White Paper: BioLPG: Supply boost. Argus Media.

\*includes all biogases, including biomethane

# Today, the share of total biofuels supply consumed by ships is very small, but growing



Sources:  
 MPA Singapore (2025). MPA Singapore. Retrieved from Maritime Performance: <https://www.mpa.gov.sg/who-we-are/newsroom-resources/research-and-statistics>  
 Port of Rotterdam (2025). Port of Rotterdam. Retrieved from BUNKER SALES PORT OF ROTTERDAM 2021 - 2025: [bunkersales-2021-2025.pdf](https://www.portofrotterdam.com/en/press-releases/bunker-sales-2021-2025)  
 IEA (2025), Renewable Energy Progress Tracker, [Renewable Energy Progress Tracker – Data Tools - IEA](https://www.iea.org/renewable-energy-progress-tracker)

# Biofuel bunkering operations have taken place in more than 60 different ports since 2015



Source: DNV; as of December 2024

# FAME and HVO are fundamentally different fuels with distinct properties

## Comparison of selected fuel characteristics for pure FAME and HVO, using MGO as the baseline

(Baseline: MGO)	FAME	HVO
Energy content	Lower	Comparable
Cetane number	Comparable	Higher
Density	Comparable	Slightly lower
Viscosity	Slightly higher	Slightly lower
Material compatibility	Incompatible with certain materials*	Comparable
Flash point	Higher	Comparable
Lubricity	Good**	Poor
Cold flow properties***	Poor	Good / Comparable
Storage stability	Poor	Good / Comparable

\*Corrosive activity varies with quality indicators such as acidity; \*\*FAME maintains good lubricity despite having a very low sulfur content; \*\*\*Cloud Point (CP), Pour Point (PP), and Cold Filter Plugging Point (CFPP)

### Fatty Acid Methyl Ether (FAME):

- often referred to as biodiesel
- relatively good combustion and lubricity properties
- poses some challenges compared to standard oil fuels, particularly in terms of stability (degradation), corrosivity, and cold flow properties

### Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO):

- often referred to as renewable diesel
- compared to MGO, HVO has a similar flashpoint, good cold temperature tolerance, robust stability and oxidation properties, and is generally comparable in terms of microbial growth or materials compatibility

**Industry experience so far indicates that use of FAME and HVO generally proceed without significant problems (blends and pure products), provided that appropriate preparations and measures are taken**

# Summary

1

GHG regulations will likely boost biofuel demand in shipping, but today the main push comes from cargo owners aiming to cut Scope 3 emissions

2

Global biofuel production reached ~160 Mtoe in 2024; GHG saving and sustainability criteria will impact the share of supply eligible for use in shipping

3

Biofuels accounted for 0.7 Mtoe or 0.2–0.3% of shipping's total energy consumption in 2024, bunker sales in Singapore and Rotterdam suggests rising use

4

Industry experience so far indicates that use of FAME and HVO generally proceed without significant problems (blends and pure products), provided that appropriate preparations and measures are taken

# Thank you for listening

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