

ICS 13.040.50

CCS Z 64



**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

GB 8840-2026

Replacing GB 8840-2009

**Limits and measurement methods for exhaust smoke from
ships**

船舶排气烟度限值及测量方法

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Standardization Administration of the PRC**

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Foreword

This document was issued on 27 June 2026 by the State Administration for Market Regulation and the Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China, and takes effect on 1 July 2027.

It replaces GB 8840-2009, which remains in force until that date.

The document is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

Classification: ICS 13.040.50, CCS Z 64.

1 Scope

GB 8840-2026 is the Chinese national standard covering the visible smoke a ship's engine may emit - the opacity limits and how they are measured, on the exhaust plume that is the most visible and most complained-about part of a vessel's emissions in port. A mandatory standard, under the Ministry of Ecology and Environment. It replaces GB 8840-2009 and takes effect on 1 July 2027. It was issued on 27 June 2026 and takes effect on 1 July 2027, replacing GB 8840-2009. The document is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment. This page is published from the official record of the 2026 edition; the clause text of a standard this recent is not yet in circulation, and the figures, limits and tables it contains are those of the document itself, delivered in full with the English translation.

2 Edition and transition

GB 8840-2026 is the current edition. It was issued on 27 June 2026 and takes effect on 1 July 2027, replacing GB 8840-2009.

Until 1 July 2027 the previous edition, GB 8840-2009, remains the one in force: a contract, a specification or an inspection report that cites the standard without a year is met by GB

8840-2009 today and by GB 8840-2026 from that date. Anyone writing a new specification now has to decide which of the two to name, and anyone holding a certificate issued against GB 8840-2009 should check what the transition requires of it.

The interval between issue and effect is the transition period. It exists so that producers, laboratories and buyers can requalify products, revise procedures and use up documentation before the new text becomes the one that applies. The date on this page is the official one from the record of the Standardization Administration.

3 Classification and status

GB 8840-2026 is classified under ICS 13.040.50, in the field of environment and health protection, safety. ICS is the International Classification for Standards, the same scheme used by ISO and by the national bodies of most countries, which is what allows a Chinese standard to be placed beside its foreign counterparts on subject rather than on number.

Its Chinese Standard Classification code is CCS Z 64. CCS is the domestic scheme, a letter for the sector and two digits for the subject within it, and it is the code by which the standard is filed and searched in China.

The GB prefix without a suffix marks a mandatory national standard: compliance is required by law for the products or activities within its scope, and a product that does not meet it may not lawfully be placed on the Chinese market.

The document is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, which is the body that maintains it and that will answer a formal question about its interpretation.

4 Structure of the document

Chinese national standards are drafted to the rules of GB/T 1.1, which fixes the order in which a standard is set out. The document opens with a foreword recording the issuing bodies, the relationship to any previous edition and the technical committee responsible for it. Clause 1 is the scope. Clause 2 lists the normative references - the other standards that have to be applied together with this one, and without which its requirements cannot be met. Clause 3 gives the terms and definitions. The technical clauses follow: the requirements themselves, the test or measurement methods by which conformity is established, the inspection rules that say how a lot is sampled and judged, and, for a product standard, the provisions on marking, packaging, transport and storage. Annexes, normative or informative, come last.

GB 8840-2026 runs to 15 pages in the English translation. What is delivered is the complete document in that order: every clause, every table, every figure and every annex of the Chinese original, with the same numbering, so that a reference to a clause number in a contract or a test report points to the same place in both languages.

5 The English edition

The English edition of GB 8840-2026 is a full translation of the official Chinese text, not a summary, an abstract or a machine rendering left unchecked. Clause and subclause numbers, table and figure numbers and annex letters are those of the original, because they are what a specification, a purchase order or a test report cites.

Technical terms are translated against the vocabulary standards of the same field, so that a term used in GB 8840-2026 reads the same way as in the other Chinese standards it is used beside. Where a term has an established English form in an ISO or IEC document on the same subject, that form is used; where China's term has no foreign counterpart, it is translated literally and the Chinese is kept alongside it rather than replaced by an approximation.

Quantities, units and symbols are carried over unchanged. Chinese standards use SI, so a value in the translation is the value in the original document, not a conversion, and a limit read from the English text is the limit that will be applied by a Chinese inspection body reading the Chinese one.

This page is compiled from the official publication record: the standard number and both titles, the issuing bodies, the dates of issue and effect, the edition it replaces, and the ICS and CCS classification. The requirements, limits, tables and test conditions are in the document itself.