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Service Update: Low Lubricity Fuels Originating From Khor Fakkan (UAE)

Applicability: All ship owners, operators and charterers

Recently FOBAS tested few bunker samples from Khor Fakkan, ordered as ISO-F-DMA grade, for which Lubricity significantly exceeded the specified limit of 520  $\mu\text{m}$ . The Lubricity results of these fuel samples range from 620 ~ 630  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Also these fuel samples had viscosity less than 3cSt, which is below average for a low sulphur marine distillate grade.

Extended use of low lubricity and low viscosity fuel on rotary / reciprocating type fuel system equipment may result in an increased wear rate leading to reduced component life of the equipment.

Manufacturers' recommendations regarding operating engines within an allowable tolerance range above maximum lubricity limits and below minimum viscosity at point requirements must be followed. Maintaining ambient (point) temperature to retain the viscosity above the minimum required at the fuel system sensitive components such as; supply/service pumps and fuel injection components, should help mitigate the effects of a lower lubricity fuel by enhancing the hydrodynamic film lubrication.

Attention should be given to fuel system component condition when changing over to low viscosity distillate fuels from heavy fuel optimised operations, in way of fuel pump leakage and reduced injection pressures. In addition Initial filter blockages, due to solvent nature of distillate fuels cleaning heavy fuel oil lines may occur. Allowances should be made for possible initial start-up and manoeuvring irregularities.

If your ships are planning to bunker at this port we recommend that suppliers are advised of your concerns regarding the viscosity of the fuel and that they provide you with additional reassurance that they will meet the ISO 8217 requirements for the grade ordered.

Additional attention should be given to the collection of the bunker samples. It should be ensured that all parties have witnessed the sampling process and that the supporting documentation includes records of all the samples considered representative of the fuel as loaded.

*If you require any further information about this Bulletin, please contact us at [fobas@lr.org](mailto:fobas@lr.org) or speak to one of our consultants on +44 (0)330 414 1000 (Southampton UK), +44 (0)1642 440991 Redcar (UK), +65 3163 0888 (Singapore), +30 210 4580 932 (Greece).*

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