

19 September 2019

FOBAS Bulletin: ISO releases Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 23263

Applicability: All ship owners, charterers and operators

In July 2017, MEPC 71 requested ISO to consider the framework of ISO 8217 with a view to ensuring consistency between the relevant ISO standards on marine fuel oils and the implementation of regulation 14.1.3 of MARPOL Annex VI. Since the 49th session of ISO/TC 28/SC 4/WG 6 in September 2017, the ISO has been specifically working on developing the ISO/PAS 23263 “Considerations for fuel suppliers and users regarding marine fuel quality in view of the implementation of maximum 0.50% sulphur in 2020”. The much-awaited standard has been issued today and is available for [download](#).

Please note that ISO/PAS 23263 shall be used in conjunction with ISO 8217:2017 which covers marine fuel oils delivered to the market today including 0.10 % S fuel oils, higher S fuel oils, as well as 0.50 % S fuel oils. It can also be used in conjunction with earlier editions of ISO 8217 in the event an earlier edition is referenced in the commercial agreement between parties. The PAS has not introduced new specifications nor an additional table for 0.50 % S fuels but has expounded on the general concerns around key parameters being raised on the implementation of the 0.50% S fuels.

The PAS provides general considerations that apply to all 0.50 % S fuels, including sulphur content, flash point and the technical aspects of kinematic viscosity, cold flow properties, ignition characteristics and catalyst fines that might apply to specific fuels. In addition, it provides considerations on commingling of fuels including information on pre-delivery compatibility testing and information on other test methods which can be used to evaluate stability and compatibility of fuels. The existing spot test and total sediment tests remain the primary tests for determining compatibility and stability of fuels. More detailed information on the use of test methods related to stability and compatibility will be included in a CIMAC guideline document entitled “General guidance in marine fuel handling in connection to stability and compatibility”, this will follow shortly, we will keep you posted.

The next revision of ISO 8217:2017 will now start as PAS has been published and 0.50% S fuels are starting to come on to the market to evaluate, which will provide a greater insight of the actual composition to consider the information included in the PAS and feedback and experience from the industry on the use of 0.50 % S fuels. Please note that FOBAS has been the integral part of the ISO WG6 and would continue to provide expertise to help develop future editions of the ISO 8217. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by email 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). For anything urgent, please contact us via our out of office number, +44 (0)1642 425660.