

November 15

FOBAS Alert: Off-specification (greater than 3.50% m/m) sulphur fuels at Fujairah

Applicability: Ship owners and operators

In recent weeks, FOBAS has tested a number of samples from bunkers lifted from Fujairah which have Sulphur levels exceeding the 3.50% m/m maximum limit as stated in MARPOL Annex VI regulation 14.1.2. Sulphur content of these samples tested outside the 95% confidence range giving results of between 3.80 – 3.90% m/m.

In accordance with MARPOL Annex VI, marine fuel oils with a confirmed Sulphur content exceeding 3.50 % mass, cannot be used directly unless ships are fitted with sulphur oxide abatement technologies.

In view of this, all ships planning to bunker from Fujairah are advised to confirm sulphur content of the fuel from respective suppliers. In accordance with the MARPOL Annex VI requirements, receivers of fuel oils should ensure that all bunker delivery notes provided by suppliers correctly document the actual sulphur content, and that the sulphur content of fuel loaded does not exceed the maximum limit as specified on the bunker delivery note.

In any case where such a fuel has been bunkered and confirmed after initial bunker drip sample testing, the initial actions below can be considered.

- Further representative tank samples taken and analysed to confirm the sulphur result.
- Safe custody of the MARPOL Annex VI Sample and Bunker Delivery Note (BDN) should be verified, as these may be called for by Port State Control or the Flag State in investigating compliance.
- The ships flag state should be informed and they should be able to provide further advice.

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