

November 15

**FOBAS Alert:** High Catalytic Fines (Aluminium + Silicon) Fuels from Trinidad

**Applicability:** Ship owners and operators

Over the last two weeks, FOBAS have tested several residual fuel samples from bunkerings in Trinidad that have been found to contain levels of Aluminium + Silicon (catfines) which significantly exceed the 60 mg/kg limit as stipulated in the ISO 8217:2012 specification.

The fuels tested had values of Aluminium + Silicon ranging between 160 to 320 mg/kg. This is beyond the capability of an onboard fuel treatment plant to reduce these abrasive particles from the reported levels to a satisfactory concentration of 10~15 mg/kg required at the engine inlet.

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

Should one of your ships bunker in this region, particular attention should be given to the collection of fully representative drip samples, ensuring all supporting documentation and samples drawn are witnessed and signed for by all parties present. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that the fuel is independently tested so that the fuel quality is known prior to its use.

If you require any further information about this Alert, 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).