

December 15

FOBAS Alert: High sediment fuels originating from West Africa**Applicability:** Ship owners and operators

In the second half of November 2015, FOBAS has tested a number of samples from Lome (Togo) and Abidjan (Ivory Coast) which exceeded the ISO 8217:2012 limit of 0.10 mass% for Total Sediment (aged). Results ranged from 0.25 mass % to 0.46 mass %. Extended analysis by Total Sediment Existent (TSE) and Toluene Wash indicated that the high sediment results were due in part to extraneous dirt but predominantly precipitated asphaltenic material. This is an indication of the fuel being unstable.

Unstable fuels may result in excessive sludge deposition in tanks and throughout the handling and treatment/fuel injection systems. Furthermore, the attempted use of unstable fuels can result in compromised combustion characteristics.

In addition to the above, fuels containing a high amount of extraneous dirt can result in heavy loading on purifiers which can lower the purifier plant efficiency with respect to removing harmful contaminants such as Silicon, Aluminium and / or Water. Purifiers should be monitored and operational adjustments made as necessary.

If your ships are planning to bunker in that region, we recommend that suppliers are advised of your concerns regarding the stability of the fuel in the area, and that they provide you with additional reassurance that they will adhere to the ISO 8217 requirements for the grade ordered.

Additional attention should be given to the collection of bunker samples. It should be ensured that all parties have witnessed the sampling process and have signed witness forms accordingly, 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 Alert, please contact us at 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).