

18 November 2016

FOBAS Bulletin: High sediment fuels originating from Greek Ports

Applicability: Ship owners and operators

In the last few weeks, a number of ships on the FOBAS fuel testing programme have reported heavy sludge generation on fuel filters and in the purifiers during the use of high sulphur ISO-F-RMG380 grade fuels bunkered from various ports in Greece including Piraeus and Volos.

Based on FOBAS database, there have been six deliveries to date of the problematic fuels where Total Sediment (aged) exceeded the ISO 8217:2012 limit of 0.10% mass. Advised bunker details from respective Bunker Delivery Notes (BDN) as well as FOBAS quality analysis indicate five out of six fuel samples appear to originate from same batch of fuel delivered over a period of time. Total sediment potential results of these samples ranged from 0.14 mass % to 0.30 mass %.

In view of the above, 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).