

24 March 2017

FOBAS Alert: Low Flash point (< 60°C) from ports in the North East USA

Applicability: All ship owners and operators

Recently FOBAS has tested a number of Low Sulphur MGO samples with flash point below the 60 °C SOLAS minimum limit. Tested results range from 56 to 59 °C. It should be noted that SOLAS refers to minimum of 60 °C flash point for marine fuels and therefore no test tolerance range applies to this limit and this limit of 60 Deg C is considered as absolute.

As a first step for any vessel having bunkered fuel with a low flash point we would recommend that you should contact ship's Flag State, insurance underwriters and classification society for further advice.

Secondly further samples from the top of relevant storage tanks should be taken to confirm the flash point of the fuel in tanks as it can be the case that low flash point have been due to some of the low flash components in the fuel which are prone to evaporate giving rise to the flash point of fuel.

Thirdly any company or ship specific safety procedures should be followed as well as the general considerations below:

- Maintain fuel temperatures in storage tanks at minimum possible.
- Keep relevant tanks well ventilated to minimise accumulation of flammable gases.
- Avoid hot work and smoking or any other heat source in the vicinity of fuel storage tanks and vents.
- Observe any other relevant safety procedures contained in international safety codes.

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