

05 October 2017

FOBAS Alert: High Viscosity Fuels Originating from Antwerp (Belgium)

Applicability: All ship owners and operators

Recently FOBAS tested several bunker samples from Antwerp, ordered as ISO-F-RMK700 grade, for which, however, viscosity significantly exceeded the specified limit of 700 cSt. The viscosity results of these fuel samples range between 750 to 765 cSt. Calculated Carbon Aromaticity Index (CCAI), a calculated value generated from tested density and viscosity to provide an indication of the fuel's ignition delay, has been reported around 864 for these fuels, which is considered above average. Other fuel parameters analysis results indicate satisfactory quality characteristics.

The use of high viscosity fuel depends on the ships' machinery systems' capacity to achieve the required temperatures for correct transfer/ injection viscosity. Fuel injection temperature, however, should not be allowed to rise above 150 deg C. Above average CCAI would mean additional attention should be given to the engine settings for optimum combustion performance.

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

Additional attention should be given to the collection of the bunker samples. It should be ensured that all parties have witnessed the sampling process 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 Bulletin, 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).*

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