

# FOBAS Bulletin



14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## Off-Specification Fuels from Port Elizabeth

In the last week, FOBAS has tested a number of samples from Port Elizabeth which were ordered as ISO-F-RMG380 grades, that exceeded the ISO 8217 specification limit of 0.10% m/m for TSP. The TSP values tested were in the range 0.23 % m/m – 0.38 % m/m

Extended analysis by Total Sediment Existent (TSE) and Toluene Wash indicated that the high sediment results were mainly due to extraneous dirt.

Advised bunker details from respective Bunker Delivery Notes (BDN) as well as FOBAS quality analysis indicate the samples appear to originate from same batch of fuel delivered over a period of time.

Fuels with high sediments can result in excessive sludge deposition in tanks and throughout the handling and treatment/fuel injection systems. Furthermore, the attempted use of such fuels can result in highly compromised combustion leading to engine and turbocharger damage.

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 Aluminium. Silicon and/or Water. Purifiers should be monitored and operational adjustments made as necessary.

In view of the above, if your ships are planning to bunker in these ports, 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 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), +30 211 990 7732 (Greece). For anything urgent, please contact us via our out of office number, +44 (0)1642 425660.*