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TECHNICAL UPDATE: 2017/6/7

INCREASING CATFINE CONTENT IN SINGAPORE BUNKERS

Between May 10th and June 5th, Viswa Lab has tested 31 samples with high catfines (above 60 ppm) from multiple suppliers in the port of Singapore. The supplies were for RMG 380, RMK 500 and RMK 700 grade fuels. Out of these 31 samples, 4 samples had catfine content above 80 ppm (81 ppm, 82 ppm, 84 ppm and 90 ppm).

Percentage wise, the number of Singapore bunker samples with higher than 60 ppm catfines has gone up from 0.97% from January to May 2017 to 3.25% from May to June 2017 which is a significant increase.

For a sample with 80 ppm catfines, onboard purification systems will have to operate at over 80% efficiency to bring the catfines below the 15 ppm value recommended by engine makers. Based on statistical data available with Viswa Lab, purification systems on board do not sustain this level of catfine removal except when the vessels are new. The purifier performance can be improved by as much as 10% if you throttle the flow rate to 30% or below.

You can reduce the hazards of high catfines by specifying in your bunker purchase order that the supply should not contain more than 40 ppm of catfines. In addition to this, you must ensure that the onboard fuel treatment functions at the best level of efficiency. Please do send samples before purifier, after purifier along with the sample before entry to main engine to the lab for analysis so that you can be sure that there is no potential for catfine damage.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Best regards,

Dr.Vis