



Worldwide Quantity, Quality, Inspection and Laboratory
Testing of all Grades of Petroleum Products and Fuels.

The other sample?

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The other samples?

- By now I'm sure that we are all familiar with the MARPOL sample but what about the other sample?
- During bunkering 4/5 samples will be taken to ensure compliance with IMO regulation and fuel quality/quantity.



Sample Distribution:

These samples are often distributed as follows:

- MARPOL Sample (1)
 - Vessel retain sample (1)
 - Supplier sample (2)
 - Fuel quality sample (1)
- Samples are labeled, sealed and asked to be signed for by the vessel's and supplier's representative to show chain of custody. The seal numbers are then recorded on the BDN.



Duplicate samples

- Seems straightforward enough, however, due to the increasing number of parties with an interest in the fuel received, Owners, Charterers, Ship's Managers, Fuel brokers, Testing Firms, and the physical Suppliers, all may request samples.
- Many times we are on-board and see 10 or 12 samples obtained; often a complete set each by both supplier and vessel personnel.

Can all of these samples be truly representative at the same time, and which one(s) will be tested in case of dispute??



Which sample is the legal sample?

- Without prior agreement on the sampling procedure by the above, and clear identification of any alternate custody transfer samples, the legally accepted sample is most often the barge retain sample.

Must be RIGHT

- We ask a lot of this one (1) liter sample when it is the referee in case of quality/quantity dispute. One liter of fuel in a bottle representing a million dollars or more....
- Therefore , this sample must be right...



How, When and Where

- To ensure the sample are representative of all product delivered we must ensure the following:

H o w , W h e n a n d W h e r e the sample been taken



How?



To best ensure that a sample is representative of all product delivered, it has to be taken using approved sampling methods.

There are four common methods:

- 1- Manual Drip Sampler, with valve
- 2- Time proportional automatic sampler
- 3- Flow proportional automatic sample
- 4- Manual samples from the barge tanks



- All of the above can be used to obtain representative samples if their operation is understood and properly trained and qualified personal are available to operate the equipment.
- Naturally, precautions must be taken to safeguard the sample from any contamination, (weather/dirt/rust/...). We have seen some samples with high fresh water contamination, due to rain....Or a low flash point due to someone cleaning their sampling equipment with solvent...



When?



- With a lot of fuels being blended today, to be truly representative, a sample should be drawn throughout the whole bunker delivery time.
- Unfortunately, many a sample is offered prior to commencing bunkering or before completion.
- Anyone signing the BDN should be aware of How, When, and Where the Custody Transfer sample came from.

Where?



- Bunker collection, sampling and storage guidelines are provided in Annex VI and have been defined by MEPC 96(47), which states that:
- *"A retained sample of all fuel oils as supplied, is drawn at the ships receiving manifold, sealed, signed on behalf of the supplier and the Master or ship's officer in charge of the bunkering operation. The retained sample is to be kept under the ship's control until the subject fuel has been substantially consumed, but in any case for at least 12 months from the date of delivery."*
- Ideally, as with the MARPOL sample, all other samples should be taken from the same location.
- However, in many cases, due to regulations, insurance liability issues, and other duties required of the ship and barge personnel, it can be difficult to get everyone together to properly witness the sampling location. Vessel representatives may not be permitted on the barge, or barge representative on



Conclusion



- All parties in the fuel transaction have an interest in doing the right thing:
- Suppliers want to deliver a good product at a good price, and buyers want to receive a good product at a good price.
- By insuring the following point are clearly identify in your fuel contract, both parties can avoid an endless dispute:
 - Clearly state the grade ordered as per most recent ISO 8217 grade.
 - Identify the custody transfer sample.
 - Identify the method of sampling and the point of sampling (Sample to be taken during delivery in accordance with the recommendation of MARPOL Annex VI jointly with representative from the supplier and the vessel).
 - Ensure that all samples are properly identified, sealed, labeled, and distributed and recorded in the BDN.
 - Identify the period to which the custody transfer sample remain in retain.



Thank You.....

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