

BUNKER FLASH

High Pour Point fuels in United Arab Emirates

Issued on 17 Feb.2022

Maritec Pte Ltd has tested several samples representing VLSFO deliveries in Jebel Ali & Fujairah, United Arab Emirates with Pour Point higher than 33°C for the Bunker period of 29th January 2022 to 13th February 2022. The VLSFO bunkers was delivered by the multiple suppliers and barges.

A high pour point fuel can result in an increased demand on the heating requirements for the fuel in the storage tanks. Moreover even though ISO8217 limits the cold flow properties of a fuel through setting a limit on the pour point, wax crystals in VLSFOs can form at a higher temperature than the pour point known as the Wax Appearance Temperature (or WAT). This can be challenging to vessel operations in colder operating regions, as the wax particles can rapidly block filters, potentially plugging them completely. Removal of these formed wax crystals require the fuel to be heated and maintained at temperatures above the WAT also known as Wax Disappearance Temperature (or WDT).

With high WAT & WDT, vessel with constraints in the design of the tank heating arrangement and the ambient temperature in the area of operation and thus not be able to achieve the temperatures. Transfer of fuel from storage tanks to settling tanks will be near impossible to sustain the daily consumption of the vessel.

Maritec recommends testing the WAT and WDT of a fuel once the tested pour point exceeds 21°C. Once the minimum temperature to which a fuel must be heated to melt the wax is readily known, the vessel can know and avoid operational issues well in advance.

Refer to earlier newsletter issued by Maritec on the above for more information, link is provided below:

[Maritec Launching of WAT and WDT Testing to Help Vessels to Better Manage High Pour Waxy VLSFO](#)

This flash however does not reflect on the overall quality of fuel being supplied at United Arab Emirates, if you intend to bunker at this region, please request for a Certificate of Quality stating the pour point prior to loading.

CTI-Maritec can assist you in with further information on quality of bunkers tested in different regions. If you require any other information or assistance do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

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