

Book Review: An Introduction to Bunkering

08Jul 2008, 12:33 GMT

"This is a book that will sit comfortably on the desk of anyone who has to deal with the bunkering of ships, whatever their experience or training," says the book's publisher, Llewellyn Bankes-Hughes.

An Introduction to Bunkering has been written by Nigel Draffin. He has been involved in shipping for more than 42 years and with the bunker market for over 22 years.

Its thirteen chapters provide a comprehensive guide to the marine fuel market, covering topics including the physical characteristics of bunker fuel, the specifications of different grades, the methods by which fuel is delivered and the fuel demands and efficiency ratings of marine engines.

It also has sections entitled "What can go wrong" and "How to avoid and deal with problems".

It is richly illustrated and has a wealth of graphs, charts and appendices.

Chapters like "Terms and Conditions" take the reader safely through the minefield of technical language that routinely accompany bunker contracts.

Draffin uses a light touch and allows himself gentle understatement even when giving key, practical advice: "It is important to understand that a lack of knowledge of the seller's terms does not help the buyer pursue a claim," is just one example.

The approach is in line with his aim to make the book as accessible to as wide a readership as possible.

"I believe that the information in this book is just as relevant to vessel charters, ship operators, marine lawyers and port agents as it is to buyers and sellers of marine fuel," writes Draffin in the book's preface.

As well as its carefully researched text, the 100-page book provides an impressive summary of the international organisations and legislative bodies that now have a hand in the bunker industry, as well as listing organisations and websites that provide information and support.

There is also a guide to frequently used abbreviations as well as a full index.

An Introduction to Bunkering is published by [Petrospot Ltd.](#) and retails at \$79.95 / £39.95 / euros 49.95. It can be ordered online at <http://www.petrospot.com/draffin>

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