

Know Your Fuel

No two fuels are exactly the same, writes Chris Hewer.. Quality can change depending on the crude oil and feedstock from which the fuel is derived, on the type of processing it receives at the refinery, and on the way it is stored, blended and delivered to ships. At one time, shipowners used not to worry unduly about the quality of the fuel they were buying. But, in the 1980s, in response to a steady deterioration in the quality of bunkers, the first dedicated fuel testing agencies started to appear. Today, such agencies play a vital role today in determining whether fuel is fit to burn, or just another hostage to arbitration or litigation.

It is now standard practice to send a bunker sample off for laboratory analysis. But the problems do not always end there. Owners and charterers still have to understand the results, appreciate the implications, and know what it is reasonable to expect and possible to accept. In this way, they can avoid costly mistakes.

A new book from Petrosport seems likely to be a help in this regard. 'An Introduction to Fuel Analysis' is written by Nigel Draffin, who has forgotten more about bunkers than most of us know. And Nigel has forgotten nothing in his new book, which explains in a bright, simple and effective way the importance of knowing the fuels you are dealing with.

The book contains a wealth of information that will enable everyone from the newcomer to the old hand to understand bunker fuels and what they contain, how to test each key parameter and what the test results actually mean, and what happens when problem results appear.

The book includes numerous detailed diagrams, tables, charts and photographs which will help anyone who has any doubts about what can be found in marine fuels and, once found, what to do about it. There are also useful appendices detailing places to go for help, lists of abbreviations, and a multilingual glossary of the words and terms most often found in fuel test analysis reports.

To order a copy of the book, which is priced at £39.95 / \$79.95 / €49.95 + carriage, and for which volume discounts are available, go to.

http://www.petrosport.com/books-fuel_analysis.asp