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TECHNICAL UPDATE 2022/3/1

Presence of organic chlorides in Singapore HSFO bunkers

Over the last few weeks Viswa has identified 3 bunkers supplied in Singapore that had high levels of organic chlorides including Tetrachloroethylene greater than 150 ppm, 1,2-Dichloroethane greater than 2,400 ppm, Chloroform greater than 90 ppm, Carbon Tetrachloride greater than 20 ppm, Trichlorethylene greater than 15 ppm, 1,1,2- Trichloroethane greater than 900 ppm and Chlorobenzene greater than 90 ppm. All three fuels were HSFO fuels (Sulfur > 3%). The 3 supplies were made by 2 different suppliers.

One of the vessels has already reported damage to Main Engine and Auxiliary Engine fuel pump (Wear and Seizure), damage to filter candles and has reported higher levels of sludge generation.

Organic Chlorides in bunker fuels have been known to cause serious problems to machinery even at low levels. Damages were mainly reported in fuel pumps and cylinders.

The source of these organic chlorides could be from chemicals used in engine air coolers and cleaning agents used in the dry-cleaning industry. These organic chlorides should not be present in bunker fuels at these levels and these should not be used at these elevated levels.

Please speak to the supplier about these contaminants when you bunker in Singapore and ask for a Certificate of Quality (COQ) which must include quantification of all organic chlorides.