

Proposed revision to ISO 8217

The International Organization for Standardization (the ISO) has recently made available for public comment the first draft of the fourth revision of ISO 8217, the international standard for marine fuels.

The draft includes a number of potentially significant changes when compared to the current standard.

For example, the level of Aluminium & Silicon - known as catalytic (or cat) fines - currently stands at 80 mg/kg, except for DMC for which the limit is 25 mg/kg.

The draft proposes that DMC be reclassified as residual fuel RMA 10, although it would maintain the 25 mg/kg limit.

It is also proposed that other residual fuels will have specific limits ranging from 40 mg/kg to 60 mg/kg, depending on grade.

Limits on Sulphur content are not included in the draft, allowing for the purchaser of the bunker fuel to specify the sulphur content to the supplier.

A number of new parameters are included in the draft proposal - H₂S; Acid Number & Strong Acid Number; Calculated Carbon Aromaticity Index and Sodium.

In addition, the parameter Total Sediment Potential (TSP) would be replaced by Total Sediment Accelerated (TSA).

For distillates only, new parameters stability (oxidation) and lubricity (for Ultra Low Sulphur Fuel) have been proposed.

In addition, four new informative annexes have been included in the draft standard.

The subjects covered include bio-derived materials, contaminants, hydrogen sulphide and sulphur.

It should be remembered that the proposals contained in this draft are just that - proposals, and as such are open for comment and may be subject to change.

Comments should be directed to the relevant national bodies - for example the British Standards Institution (BSI) in the UK.

The first draft of the fourth revision of ISO 8217, the international marine fuel standard, is now available to buy from the ISO. For more information see www.ISO.org

