



Product Awareness prior to AYS 2014

Prior AYS- Product Awareness April
2014/Version 1

Release date: April 2014

Is your fuel system season ready? Are you sure?

'Paintwork immaculate, decks pristine, bright work sparkling, engines gleaming but how clean is your fuel?'

Those engines, lovingly serviced by the ship's engineer, demand a high quality, clean fuel to power the vessel. With all the stresses that fill the day-to-day running of a superyacht, the last thing your crew wants to have to worry about is problems with fuel. Without a properly functioning and efficient fuel system, the yacht won't be leaving the berth, delaying and possibly even cancelling any trip.

Find out what is going on and how to deal with the threat: find out what problems may be lurking in your fuel tanks and how to deal with them.

Amendments to environmental legislation are changing the nature of the diesel yachts are bunkering, increasing the risk of microbial contamination and, perhaps, putting the vessel at risk. There are many different types of microorganism, under the umbrella term 'diesel-bug,'. They can enter fuel at any stage in the supply chain and given sufficient moisture and time, they will flourish. The bugs live in the water and feed off the fuel. The increased use of bio-fuels seems to exacerbate the problem possibly due to the reduction of sulphur and the addition of FAME (Fatty-Acid Methyl Ester).

These harmful micro-organisms, if undetected, can cause blocked fuel filters, increased injector wear and engine damage. If they are left for long periods, without treatment the 'bugs', can literally eat through stainless steel. Fuel systems are a perfect habitat for micro-organisms to live and grow. Effective fuel husbandry; regular draining of tank bottoms to ensure no water or sediment build up coupled with periodic fuel testing will ensure your systems are fit for the season ahead.

Leading fuel testing technology company Conidia Bioscience are manufacturers of the FUELSTAT® *resinae* plus test. This onsite fuel test can be conducted wherever fuel is manufactured, stored, distributed or consumed. The 10 minute test is capable of detecting all known organisms which grow in fuel and in fuel systems. The test can even be used prior to bunkering to check fuel quality before loading on board.

The objective of this test is to provide rapid screening of fuel samples, giving a quick and accurate assessment of microbiological growth in the fuel tank. This test is unlike current growth-based tests which require a minimum of 72 hours to provide any results. It measures the amount of active growth in the sample and provides actions and alert levels.

Gerry Herman, Technical Manager of Conidia Bioscience advised, *"Regular fuel testing, is the only way we can identify a microbial problem. If on testing, the diesel tanks show evidence of moderate levels of microbial contamination then an effective biocide treatment can save the day. If, however microbial growth has been left unchecked for too long and heavy contamination is detected then a tank clean will be in order."*

This is a perfect time of the year, to be looking at your fuel regime, to detect for microbiological contamination.

Note to editor: Conidia are an internationally recognised organisation within the Bioscience sector. The Fuelstat® range of Rapid testing technologies for the detection of microbial contamination in light distillate hydrocarbon fluids (specifically diesels and kerosene) can be used throughout the fuel supply chain. Test capability applies in the aviation, marine and land environments, wherever kerosene or diesel is used, stored or transported. (www.conidia.com)