



ISO PAS 23263 & The Joint Industry Guidance

On Wednesday 18th September 2019, the International Standards Organisation (ISO) released their Publicly Available Specification (PAS). The document; “ISO/PAS 23263:2019 Petroleum products – Fuels (class F) – Considerations for fuel suppliers and users regarding marine fuel quality in view of the implementation of maximum 0.50 % sulphur in 2020” has now been published and is available to purchase from the ISO website on this link: <https://www.iso.org/standard/75113.html>

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PAS 23263, confirms ISO 8217 specifications still apply to fuels meeting the 0.50% sulphur limit, and provides specific considerations and technical advice on fuel characteristics that might apply to particular fuels for viscosity, cold flow properties, stability, ignition characteristics and cat-fines. In addition, it provides information on how to consider compatibility between fuels.

It is worth highlighting that this document is not a new specification for 0.50% S VLSFOs, so such fuels should still meet the ISO8217 specifications, with fuel ideally being purchased against ISO8217:2017. The fuels can still be classified as distillate marine (DM) or residual marine (RM) in accordance with Table 1 or Table 2 of ISO8217 respectively.

VPS have already tested hundreds of 0.50% S VLSFOs, which to date have been bunkered across 39 ports globally. These fuels have so far shown the following properties:

Density 882 - 998Kg/m³
Viscosity 6 Cst - 510 Cst
Cat-fines 2ppm - 82 ppm
Elevated Pour Points and TSP results
Average Net Energy of 41.5 KJ/Kg
Generally compliant Sulphur levels of <0.50%

The above highlight the diverse and wide-ranging properties these new fuels exhibit and why additional considerations should be made when using such fuels, especially for the first time.

It is vitally important that you, as a fuel user, understand these new fuels with regard to quality and fuel management implications.

VPS can provide our **Additional Protection Service (APS)** which including ISO8217 test parameters offers additional tests which will provide much more information and understanding of your fuels with respect to quality, operational assistance, asset protection and damage prevention, as well as helping to ensure legislative compliance.

In addition to the ISO PAS 23263, additional guidance can be obtained via the **Joint Industry Guidance, “The Supply & Use of 0.50% Sulphur Marine Fuels**, which was published in August 2019 and available free-of-charge from numerous websites including:

www.ibia.net and <https://www.cimac.com/press-media/news/joint-industry-guidance-on-the-supply-and-use-of-0.50-sulphur-marine-fuel-kopie.html>

The JIG document is designed to be understood by senior technical staff on board ships, operational staff within shipping offices and those within the fuel supply chain and support services. The JIG should be used as part of both risk and technical assessment.

VPS have been informed the JIG document should be further supported by e-learning material which is to be made available before the end of 2019. Information for which should be provided via the authors of the guidance document in due course.

Whatever your fuel choice going into 2020, please note VPS are available to support and advise you in order to help make IMO2020 as smooth and as trouble-free as possible.

For details on **The Additional Protection Service (APS)**, VLSFO testing and advisory services, kindly email us at info@v-p-s.com or contact your Account manager. More contact details can be found at www.v-p-s.com.