

Fuel Guidance – New In-Line Fuel Quality Sampling Program Analysis Contractor – Oct '04

By Tom Gahs

The Defense Energy Support Center has awarded a follow-on In-Line Fuel Quality Sampling Program analysis contract. The new analysis contractor is Intertek Caleb Brett, of Signal Hill, CA. Effective immediately, all DESC bunker fuel and open market propulsion fuel samples must be shipped to Intertek Caleb Brett for analysis. Caleb Brett will also be responsible for supplying all replacement consumable sampling materials (collection and shipping containers, shipping labels, seals, etc.). The contract with the previous analysis laboratory, Penniman & Browne, was not renewed because they failed to meet our expectations in a number of key performance areas. Caleb Brett is a major chemical analysis laboratory with an established commercial fuel analysis program. We are hoping to dramatically increase data reliability and accuracy, improve shipping ease and reliability (especially from foreign ports), and decrease analysis report turn around times.

In order to meet expectations for near real-time analysis results, it is important samples be shipped from the bunkering port. A major change between Caleb Brett and the previous analysis contractor is because of the inherently high Flash Point of marine diesel fuel; Caleb Brett does not consider the fuel samples to be hazardous material. This should greatly ease sample shipping difficulties, especially from foreign ports.

Data reporting times will improve. The Phase 1 analysis report, which addresses the contractually enforceable fuel properties required by the Navy Purchase Description (NPD MGO), will be reported within 24 hours of them receiving your sample. A copy of the report will be faxed directly to your land fax line as well as to MLCLANT, MLCPAC, and ELC. If the sample fails any NPD MGO requirements, ELC will automatically initiate the Customer Complaint process with DESC. If the failure is serious enough to pose an immediate risk to your engines or personnel, you will be advised via naval message. The Phase 2 report, which addresses the "Informational Only" F-76 analysis results will be forwarded to ELC for interpretation, within 72 hours. The full analysis results, along with any operational advice, will be forwarded to you by ELC via naval message as soon as interpretation of the data is complete (generally within hours). If you prefer, the results can be forwarded via email instead of a naval message – just forward the appropriate email addresses to Tim Curry at ELC. Expanded (Phase 3) storage stability analyses will also be performed when F-76 storage stability standards aren't met. This will allow us to estimate how long you have to burn the fuel prior to it becoming an operational storage stability concern. Because these additional tests are involved and time consuming, the Phase 3 results will not be available for two weeks after Caleb Brett receives your sample. When complete, ELC will forward these results to you, with appropriate operational recommendations. The program will also analyze shipboard fuel quality issues for specific fuel storage tanks. Special sampling and shipping procedures will be required for diagnostic fuel tank analyses.

The basic sampling procedures have not changed from the previous contractor. Sample shipping prep and sample shipping procedures have changed. Detailed shipping procedures for samples held onboard since the Program was temporarily suspended in June '04 have been forwarded, and additional detailed information will be provided as part of the full Caleb Brett sampling kit. Caleb Brett is currently assembling the new sampling kits. They will forward the new kits free of charge upon your request. The point of contact to order full sampling kits is Mr. Steve McArthur, Intertek Caleb Brett, voice 713-456-1123, email: steve.mcarthur@intertek.com.

To minimize any confusion, we request you dispose of all old instructions, shipping labels, and shipping information material from Penniman & Browne. The collection 10-Liter cubitainers and 5-Liter metal shipping cans may be used for Caleb Brett samples until your onboard supply is exhausted. These components will be identical to your current stock when issued by Caleb Brett. **After 15 October 2004 all samples must be shipped to Caleb Brett for analysis using the new shipping containers.** Note - if samples are inadvertently shipped to Caleb Brett after 15 October, they may not be analyzed at all.

Any questions concerning the CG's In-Line Fuel Sampling Program should be directed to Tim Curry, ELC-026, voice 410-762-6737, fax 410-762-6203, email TJCurry@elcbalt.uscg.mil. Suggestions to further improve the program are especially welcome.