

TRIBOLOGIK® NEWSLETTER

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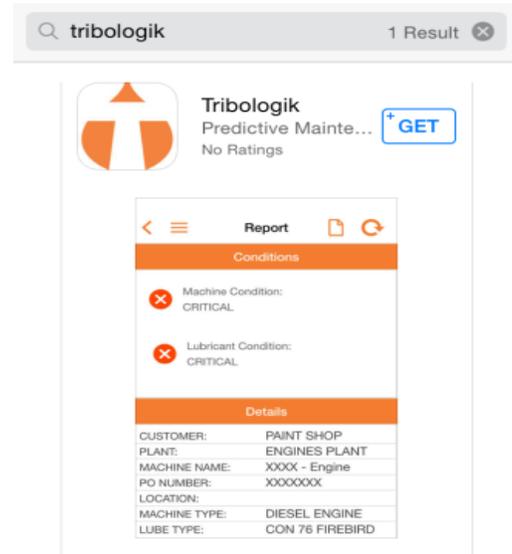
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Testing Diesel Fuel for Sulphur

Testing sulphur content in diesel fuel is a matter of compliance with U.S. EPA and Environment Canada's standards on air pollution. Sulphur oxides, specifically sulphur dioxide (SO₂) are major threats to the environment.

SO₂ is a colorless gas that smells like burnt matches. It can be chemically transformed into acidic pollutants such as sulfuric acid and sulphates, which are a major component of fine particles. SO₂ is also the main cause of acid rain, which can damage crops, forests and whole ecosystems.

This is why maximum sulphur limits are strictly regulated at 15 mg/kg for diesel engine fuels used in small engines (see table at the end). For large vessels and large stationary engines, new sulphur limits in fuel have been established at 1 000 mg/kg as of June 1st 2014, down from 35 000 parts per million.

The U.S. EPA and Environment Canada have designated an Emission Control Area (ECA) in conjunction with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), in order to enforce these new standards. This ECA consists of a 200-nautical-mile zone around North American coastlines and imposes these stricter standards on emissions from large ships including oil tankers, cargo ships and cruise ships when they are operating in this zone.

These new limits and standards align Environment Canada's diesel fuel program with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards and ensure a level playing field across the highly integrated North American fuel market.

At 1 000 ppm of sulphur maximum in 2015, the new diesel fuel standards now allow for supply of a cleaner shipping fuel throughout the ECA and protect the environment and health of both Canadian and U.S. citizens.

Testing Sulphur Content for Compliance

At Tribologik and Predictive Maintenance Corporation, our U.S. and Canadian laboratories possess all the qualifications and equipment required to test sulphur content in diesel fuel and our methods are approved by the U.S. EPA and Environment Canada.

Large marine diesel engines being significant contributors to U.S. and Canadian sulphur oxides emission inventories, a regular diesel fuel analysis program will therefore contribute to reduce air pollution which affects not just populations living near ports and coastlines, but also those living hundreds of miles inland.

Please contact your account manager for information on our sulphur content testing program.

Maximum sulphur limits for categories of diesel fuel

Diesel fuel for use in:	Regulated Activity	Sulphur Limit (mg/kg)	Effective Date
Large Vessels (Marine Diesel)	Production, import or sales	1000	June 1, 2014
Large Stationary Engines	Production, import or sales	1000	June 1, 2014
Non-large Vessels	Production or import	15	June 1, 2012
Non-large Vessels	Sales	500	October 1, 2007

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Your Equipment's Best Friends

Maximum sulphur limits for categories of diesel fuel

Diesel fuel for use in:	Regulated Activity	Sulphur Limit (mg/kg)	Effective Date
Non-large Vessels	Sales	15	June 1, 2014
Small Stationary Engines	Production, import or sales	15	June 1, 2014
Rail (locomotive)	Production or import	15	June 1, 2012
Rail (locomotive)	Sales	500	October 1, 2007
Off-road Engines	Production, import or sales	15	Since 2010
On-road Vehicles	Production, import or sales	15	Since 2006

Sources : Environment Canada, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
