

Prevent Emergency Equipment from Failing during an Emergency

Most companies and vessels have routines in place to regularly test and try out emergency equipment. However not much attention is being paid to the quality of fuel being used for emergency equipment like emergency generators, life boat engines and emergency fire pumps.

Grade DMX in the ISO 8217 specifications is intended for fuels used for emergency equipment. However since this is not a mandatory requirement, marine gas oil (MGO Grade DMA) used for other purposes onboard is often used to fill up the emergency equipment storage tanks.

This can have dangerous consequences as the DMA grade fuels may not be "fit for purpose". The quality of the fuel in the emergency equipment storage tanks may also deteriorate during storage. Hence it is essential to test and ensure that the quality of the fuel being taken into the tanks is fit for purpose and monitored at regular intervals.

IMPACT OF VARIOUS PARAMETERS ON THE OPERATION OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Cold Flow Properties (Cloud Point and Pour Point)

The Cloud Point (CP) of a distillate fuel is the temperature at which wax or other solid substances begins to separate from petroleum oil and form a cloudy appearance.

Pour Point is the lowest temperature at which the fuel will flow.

