

Onboard sampler helps vessels comply with new Marpol requirements

Kittiwake Developments of the UK unveiled its new bunker sample storage system at the recent SMM exhibition. The company says that the system will help ship owners, operators and managers comply with the latest mandatory regulations governing the collection, retention and storage of bunker samples in accordance with IMO MARPOL 73/78 Annex VI.

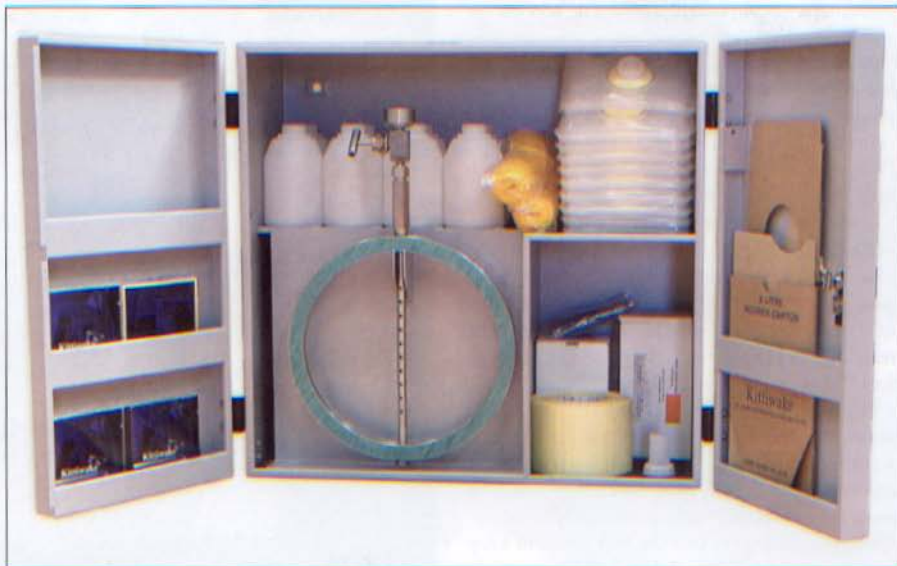
With effect 19 May 2005, IMO MARPOL 73/78 Annex VI on the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships becomes mandatory for all internationally trading vessels above 400gt. Under the terms of Annex VI, exhaust emission controls will apply to oxides of nitrogen (NOx) - Regulation 13 and oxides of sulphur (SOx) - Regulation 14. Furthermore, there are requirements, partly related to the SOx controls, which cover certain aspects related to fuel oil quality and supply arrangements - Regulation 18.

Annex VI contains provisions allowing for special 'SOx Emission Control Areas' (SECA's) to be established with more stringent controls on sulphur emissions. In these areas, the sulphur content of fuel oil used onboard ships must not exceed 1.5%, alternatively, ships must fit an exhaust gas cleaning system or use other technological methods to limit SOx emissions.

The Baltic Sea is already designated as a SECA within the protocol and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) has approved an amendment to also include the North Sea as a SECA when Annex VI enters force. Other areas such as the Mediterranean, US coastal waters and waters west of the British Isles and Continental Europe may also be expected to be proposed as SECAs in future.

For vessels trading within these SECAs, owners and operators must ensure that the necessary International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate (IAPPC) exists and that compliance can be demonstrated at the various scheduled and unscheduled survey stages. Any lack of certification or failure to be able to demonstrate the necessary compliance will effectively bar a ship from international trade.

To this end, bunker collection, sampling, and



Kittiwake's bunker storage sampling system helps vessels comply with upcoming new MARPOL requirements, which will apply to all ships over 400gt.

storage guidelines have been defined by MEPC.96(47), which states that a retained sample of all fuel oils as supplied, is drawn at the ship's receiving manifold, sealed, signed on behalf of the supplier and the master or ship's officer in charge of the bunkering operation and that the retained sample is to be kept under the ship's control until the subject fuel has been substantially consumed, but in any case for at least 12 months from the date of delivery. It is important to remember that such samples are to be used solely for determination of compliance with Annex VI of MARPOL 73/78 and cannot be used for any other commercial purposes.

Kittiwake's new Bunker Sample Storage System is a self-contained unit that provides everything a ship needs to be able to collect, retain and store bunker fuel oil samples in accordance with the new regulations. Additionally, the equipment contained can also be used for normal commercial bunker sampling and for oil testing and analysis purposes.

The Bunker Sample Storage System comprises a lockable, steel cabinet containing fuel oil collection cubitainers, sample bottles, tamper evident sealing caps, self-adhesive labels, a bunker sampling gauge and tapping, an elbow joint, bunker valve lock and tamper seals, a digital thermometer, a bunker sample log book and an instruction CD. The Kittiwake Bunker Sample Storage System assists the vessel to fully comply with MARPOL 73/78 Annex VI. In addition, Kittiwake supplies a full range of bunker samplers and ancillary equipment that can be stored within the cabinet.

The system ensures that all fuel oil samples can be collected, sealed and stored in a safe, secure location ready for immediate inspection by Port State Control as required and the Bunker Sample Log Book enables the master to maintain a simple and effective tracking system for fuel oil samples held onboard.