

BUREAU VERITAS VERIFUEL CIRCULAR

October 2022

ARA MGO DELIVERIES | stay cautious of cold flow properties

Why should we remain cautious?

Being cautious of the cold flow properties of marine fuels is especially important in the autumn when ambient temperatures decrease. Over the years, fuels supplied in ARA in particular, have been associated with blocked filters and occasionally, solidification can occur in storage tanks.

The cold flow properties of a clear and bright **Marine Gas Oil (MGO)** can be evaluated through the following three parameters:

- **Cloud Point (CP)**
The temperature at which wax crystals start to appear in the fuel
- **Cold Filter Plugging Point (CFPP)**
The lowest temperature at which a sample of the fuel will pass through a standardized filtration device in the lab
- **Pour Point (PP)**
The lowest temperature at which the fuel still flows

CP and CFPP provide guidance for how to prevent filter blockage. Although wax crystals start to form at the CP, the CFPP provides adequate guidance for the temperatures required to prevent wax from blocking filters.

The PP provides guidance for when the fuel would solidify and become unpumpable. As such, the PP is useful to set the correct temperature in the storage tanks.

“*VeriFuel has observed that MGOs are currently being supplied in Rotterdam with Pour Points of 6 °C and in Antwerp with Pour Points of 3 °C. The corresponding CFPP values ranged from 9 °C to 18 °C.*”



Planning to bunker MGO in this region?

Although these waxy fuels have high energy content and burn well, temperature management is critical to ensure smooth operation.

In view of the above, if your ships are planning to bunker MGO in this area, we recommend that suppliers are advised of your concerns regarding the cold flow properties, and that they provide you with additional reassurance that they will adhere to the ISO 8217 requirements including the latest certificate of quality of the particular stem. Please also note that based on VeriFuel's database, the risk of encountering high CFPP/Pour Points is higher when the **density exceeds 860 kg/m³**.

Temperature management

Here are some points to consider in terms of temperature management:

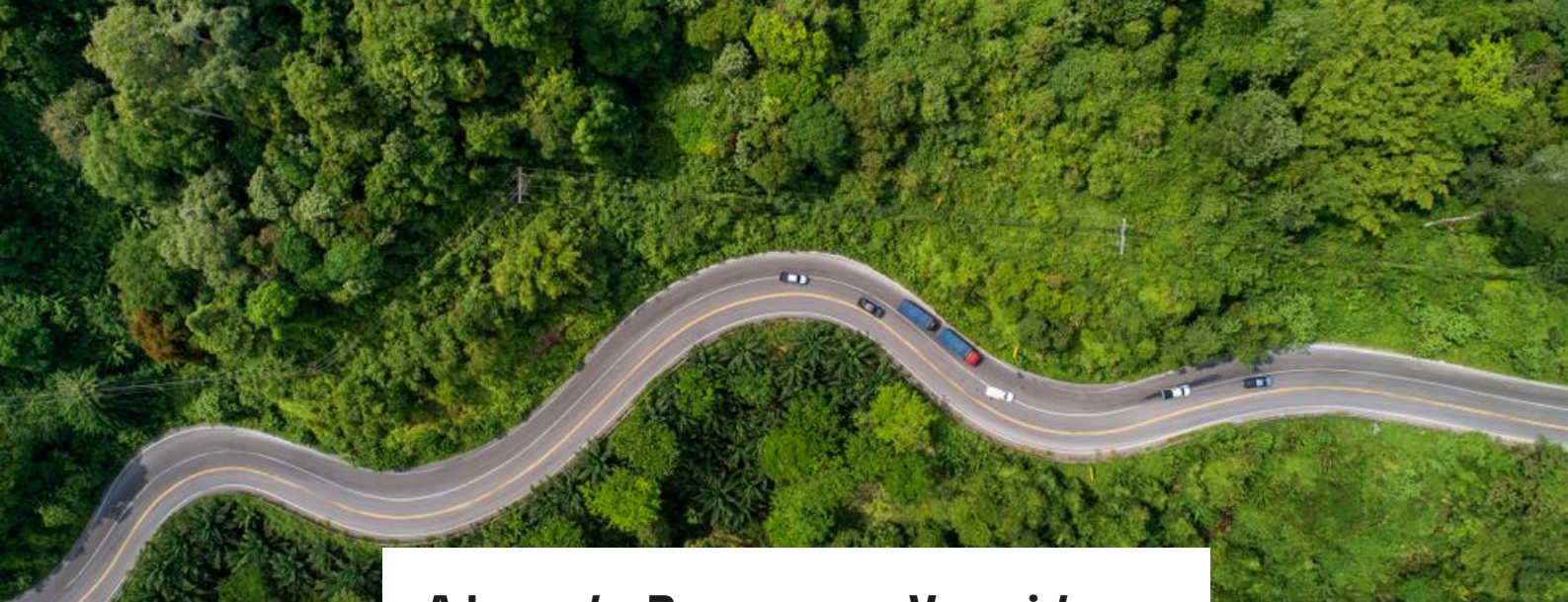
- Whether the bunker tanks used for storing the subject fuel are exposed to sea or adjacent to the engine room
- Whether the bunker tanks used for storage have heating capabilities
- Whether filters can be heated
- The expected trading pattern to possibly check if the vessel will be operating in cold regions. Temperature management is less of an issue when operating in warm tropical climates, such as Singapore

More information can be found in the CIMAC Guideline 01/2015 [“Cold flow properties of marine fuel oils”](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact the VeriFuel Team in case you like to discuss this – or any other – topic in more detail.

**CONTACT THE
VERIFUEL TEAM**





About Bureau Veritas



€5.0
billion

REVENUE
IN 2021



c.80,000
employees*

A BUSINESS TO
BUSINESS TO
SOCIETY
COMPANY

- Our employees serve our clients and are inspired by society; they make Bureau Veritas a *Business to Society* service company that contributes to **positively transforming the world we live in.**
- Thanks to our unrivalled expertise, technical knowledge and worldwide presence, we support our clients by managing **quality, safety, health and sustainability risks**, to the benefit of society as a whole.



400,000
clients



~1,600
offices &
laboratories

IN 140
COUNTRIES

