



FOBAS Bulletin

29th April 2022

FOBAS Bunker Quantity Survey Service

With recent bunker fuel prices hitting record highs combined with serious fuel contamination cases, bunker fuel represents one of the biggest costs and risks to ship managers. Add to this ever-increasing focus on carbon emissions where BDN quantity is an important factor, along with recent media reports of serious malpractice during bunker operations, it has become vital to ensure that measures are taken to ensure your vessel receives the correct quantity of fuel that has been ordered, and that the quality of the fuel is within specification and fit for purpose.

A report issued earlier this month by BLUE Insight with important aspects reported in the media highlighted “shipowners and charterers that pay for fuel in Fujairah and Rotterdam were losing an estimated \$250 million per year in payments for fuel they didn’t receive...with around 3% of bunkers recorded as delivered at Rotterdam were never actually pumped on to the ship”. As bunker fuel prices increase, such financial losses will increase proportionally. The interim report can be viewed [here](#) with the full report to be issued later in the year.

One of the services that Lloyd’s Register can offer to help protect against both quantity losses and detecting any dubious practices during bunker operations, is the ability to perform Bunker Quantity Surveys (BQS) to independently verify the quantities received and ensure that fully representative samples are taken for fuel analysis.

Our trained and certified BQS surveyor’s board both the vessel and the barge to conduct and witness all measurements using standard methods as well as when MFM is utilised. They will also take responsibility of the collection of drip samples from the vessel manifold, ensuring representative samples are obtained following best practices before distributing the samples and sending one sample to the Laboratory for analysis. They act as your “eyes and ears” during the bunker operations to ensure all local and international regulations are followed.

Our dedicated team of BQS Specialists are on standby 24/7 to update you in “real time” should the need arise. They will then issue your report, complete with FOBAS analysis if required. These reports are well detailed, impartial and can act as important documentary evidence should you ever need to make a claim for a shortage or pursue a quality dispute.

Covering all major ports and over 200 ports worldwide, to ensure you get the best service, we can tailor our BQS package to your individual needs and requirements.

Please contact our BQS Team on the below details for further information.

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