

Quality Protocol for Processed Fuel Oils - alternative method for sulphur & process for approving test methods

Approved test method for sulphur

For the estimation of sulphur in residual fuels, we will now accept the WD-XRF method ASTM D 2622 as an equivalent method to IP -336 ED-XRF. There is no significant loss of precision.

Process for accepting modified or new test methods

Appendix C, Table 1 and Table 2 identifies the approved test methods for demonstrating compliance with the standard and specifications to which the QP PFO applies. The QP does allow modified or alternative test methods to be used, subject to written approval from the Environment Agency.

We will refer all requests on petroleum test methods on to the Energy Institute Expert Panel for advice. The panel will consider the merits of the request and recommend to us any experimental work which would be required to support the change.

For a modification to an existing method, this may include a new round robin to assess the effect on precision statements. For an alternative or new method, this would in most cases require a new round-robin to establish a precision statement for PFO and to test for equivalency with the specified reference method (ASTM D6708 specifies the procedures to be followed for this).

The commercial justification for proposals involving change remains with the industry sector that also will be required to fund any project that subsequently goes forward.

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