

Panama Canal Fuel Cargo Treatment

Industry

Petroleum and
Refined Products
Cargo Trading

Region

Americas

Intertek Solutions

Petroleum Cargo
Treatment

Case

A customer was shipping a high value cargo of diesel fuel from the US Gulf Coast to Peru via the Panama Canal. The cargo needed to be treated with additives to meet specifications for lubricity and conductivity. Intertek combined our local Panamanian inspection, testing and treat operations with specialized additives and provided a cargo treatment result that met and exceeded the client's requirements and expectations.



Industry Challenge

Intertek was asked to treat an ultra-low sulfur diesel cargo aboard ship for conductivity and lubricity. The team had only a ten-hour window of opportunity when the tanker was staged in the Colon harbor in Panama, prior to the boarding of the canal pilot and the transiting of the canal.

If the operation exceeded the allotted time it would cause an expensive 1 to 3 day delay in transiting the canal, along with associated demurrage costs. The challenge was to meet the client's specifications for lubricity and conductivity measurements using additives to treat the cargo, while minimizing costly demurrage and other delays.

[continued](#)

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Panama Canal Tanker Cargo Treatment Case (continued)

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The Solution

Intertek received the cargo treatment order from the client, and quickly coordinated to meet the client's needs. Intertek personnel, using treatment additives and state-of-the-art dosing apparatus, successfully treated the cargo while the ship was waiting to transit the Panama Canal from the Atlantic side to the Pacific. Samples taken from the tanker were quickly sent to the Intertek laboratory at Balboa, Panama, for cargo specification testing and confirmation.



During the planning meeting with vessel personnel and the shipping agent, it was discovered that the vessel would be delayed in mid-transit, due to heavy ship traffic in the Panama Canal. This allowed the vessel to complete the mixing of the cargo and gave Intertek the opportunity to sample the ship's cargo before it exited the canal on the Port of Balboa, Pacific side.

Using the Intertek Panama laboratory located near Panama City, Intertek personnel promptly ran the required specification tests and provided the client a passing report before the vessel completed the canal transit. Intertek's swift sampling and testing service eliminated 10 to 12 hours in demurrage that would have been needed to sample and test the cargo while the vessel was at anchorage on the Pacific side in Balboa, which is typical for this sort of operation.

Because Intertek was able to quickly put the cargo treatment staff, equipment and additives where and when the client needed them, the client sold the cargo at a fair price and saved a significant amount of transportation and demurrage time and costs.

The client was very happy with the work done, and looks to use the Intertek team for future cargo treatments at the Panama Canal.

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