



EXPERIENCE ► INNOVATION ► SUSTAINABILITY

LIFEBOAT FUEL QUALITY

A SOLAS CRITICAL RISK



RISKS



Loss of life!



Lifeboat engines may sit idle for long periods, allowing fuel to degrade unnoticed.



Poor-quality fuel can cause failure to start, poor running under load, fuel starvation or blocked filters.



Water ingress can lead to corrosion, microbial growth and filter plugging.



Biofuels and FAME can increase risks around stability, microbial growth, acidity and cold-flow performance.



Fuel that appears compliant may no longer be fit-for-purpose after storage.



Seasonal and regional temperature changes can make unsuitable fuel inoperable in colder climates.



Potential reputational, legal and financial consequences.

WHY LIFEBOAT FUEL QUALITY MATTERS

SOLAS requires lifeboats to carry enough fuel to run at 6 knots for at least 25 hours.

DMX is the ISO 8217 grade specifically intended for emergency equipment, but DMA is often used instead.

DMX offers better low-temperature operability, ignition quality and starting reliability.

Biofuel blends may show biological growth within the first month.

Fuel stability can deteriorate well before annual change-out intervals.

THE VPS SOLUTION

VPS lifeboat fuel testing helps verify that fuel remains fit-for-purpose throughout storage and operation, supporting SOLAS readiness, safer emergency response and documented compliance assurance.

- Confirms fuel suitability before an emergency.
- Detects degradation, contamination and microbial risk early.
- Supports compliance and inspection readiness.
- Helps avoid unnecessary fuel change-outs.
- Provides documented evidence of fuel management.
- Reduces risk of lifeboat engine failure.
- Supports safer cruise and passenger operations.

CONTACT

Contact VPS to discuss lifeboat fuel testing packages

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