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Engine manufacturer welcomes 'scrubber' endorsement

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The marine engine manufacturer **Wärtsilä** says doubts about the effectiveness of scrubbing technology have been answered.

The manufacturer's comments come after the classification societies **Det Norske Veritas** and **Germanischer Lloyd** issued a Wärtsilä sulphur oxides (SOx) scrubber a Sulphur Emission Control Area (SECA) Compliance Certificate.



Scrubbers are 'an efficient solution in marine applications'

"Prior to the successful Wärtsilä tests, the use of scrubbers as an efficient and cost-effective alternative to the use of low sulphur fuel for reducing SOx emissions from ships had been questioned," said a company statement.

Wärtsilä's Director of Marketing, Arnauld Filancia, was quoted as saying: "This certification demonstrates very clearly that the Wärtsilä scrubbing technology works well and is an efficient solution in marine applications."

The full-size SOx scrubber test plant was installed on board the **Neste Oil** owned product tanker *MS Suula*.

It was used to clean the exhaust gases from the ship's 4-cylinder in-line auxiliary diesel engine and was tested with high sulphur (3.4%) and low sulphur (1.5%) heavy fuel oil.

"The measurements demonstrated a sulphur dioxide removal efficiency exceeding 99% in all operating conditions, even when using high sulphur fuel.

"This high level of efficiency was consistent throughout the load range and with all fuels. The efficiency of nitrogen oxides removal was 3-7%. The removal of particulate matter was in the range of 30-60%."

The engine manufacturer called the certification "the culmination of a project....to investigate exhaust gas scrubbing as an alternative to the use of low sulphur fuels."

It said the Wärtsilä SOx scrubber system complied with the new **International Maritime Organization's (IMO)** guidelines adopted in July.

Those guidelines were adopted with the provision that there would be a review of the criteria of the washwater produced by scrubbing technology sometime after 2010.

Certified scrubbing systems are permitted, under the IMO's revised MARPOL Annex VI regulations, as an alternative to low sulphur fuel.

" The certificates is the culmination of a project to investigate exhaust gas scrubbing as an alternative to the use of low sulphur fuels. "

Nick Jameson, 10th September 2009 12:34 GMT

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