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Developments within the ARA Fuel Quality Forum and the Rotterdam bunker licensing scheme

Nick Lurkin
Royal Association of Netherlands Shipowners and Chairman ARA Fuel Quality Forum

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Dirty Secrets: Tainted Bunker Fuel Sparks Calls for Tighter Quality Control in Shipping

September 6, 2018 by Reuters

In het asfaltmeer op Curaçao is 34.000 ton chemisch afval gedumpt. Foto: H

Internationaal afvalschandaal brengt gerecht tot bij Antwerps bedrijf en kabinet-Schauvliege

Above image is used for illustration purposes only / Credit: Port of Houston

Fuel contamination at Port of Houston expanded to Panama

On 26th April 2018, Veritas Petroleum Services (VPS) issued a Bunker Alert informing about a fuel contamination problem at the Port of Houston, which included sticking of fuel plungers, fuel-pump seizures and failures affecting multiple vessels. A situation that was also confirmed by FOBAS. Now, the UK Club informs that this problem has expanded to Panama as well.

'Brandstofzwendel scheepvaart erger dan de eiercrisis'

Bij een grootschalige politieactie zijn deze week zo'n dertig schepen, vrachtwagens en treinen geïnspecteerd, vanwege brandstof-zwendel. Het

Fuel tester VPS issues high sodium bunker alert for Fujairah

In case water is not reduced, sodium will significantly contribute to the ash content and may result in corrosion of engine components, VPS said.

Contaminated fuel oil has reached the world's biggest bunker port

BY DANIEL LOGAN BERG-MUNCH
Published 30.07.18 at 11:03

Shipments of contaminated bunker fuel oil have emerged in Singapore, the world's by far biggest bunker port. The dirty fuel can cause extensive damage to ship engines, and there are fears that the fuel will spread from Singapore throughout Asia.

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What is the ARA fuel quality forum?

Nick Lurkin, Senior Adviser Climate & Environment

Workshop "Alternative Kraftstoffe"

Hamburg/Leer, 5 and 6 June 2019

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Who is involved in ARA FQ forum?

Shipowners (ICS, ECSA and shipowners associations from BE, DE and NL)

Dutch and international (IBIA) bunker supply industry associations

Dutch petroleum industry

Ports of Antwerp, Rotterdam and Amsterdam (ARA)

Authorities from NL, BE and DE

Independent marine fuel consultants from e.g. CIMAC, Lloyds/FOBAS and ISO 8217

Dutch tank storage industry

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What are the main tasks of this ARA FQ Forum?

- Defining the supply chain and the risks to fuel quality control within that supply chain
- Defining what good quality and fit for purpose marine fuel oil means
- Identify current best practices to control the supply chain in the ARA region and elsewhere
- Exploring a potential licensing and/or quality system assurance mechanism in order to improve and safe guard the standards of bunker fuel quality in the ARA region
- Share the outcomes of abovementioned in international fora like IMO and the EU European Sustainable Shipping Forum (ESSF)

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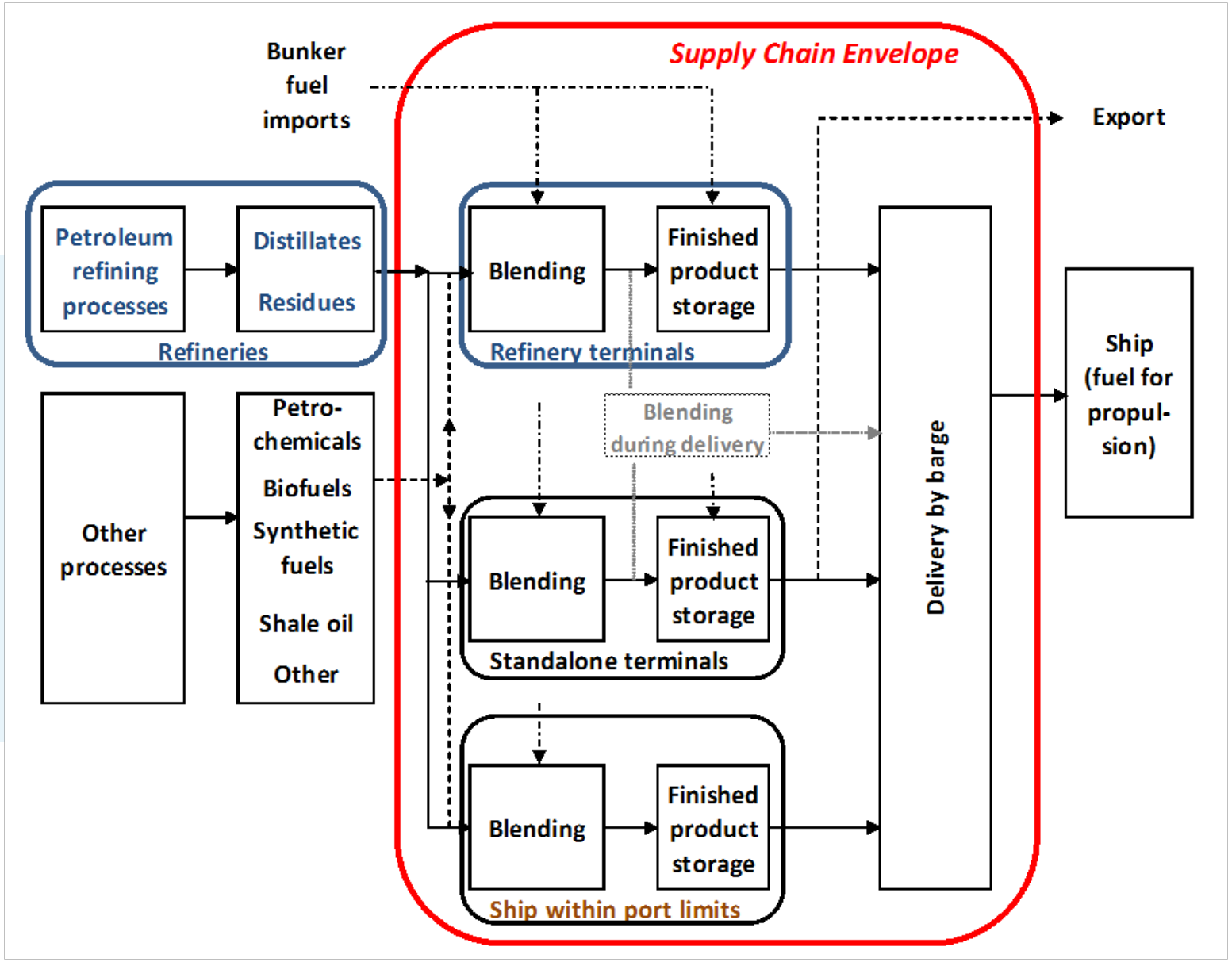
Example of work being done by ARA fuel quality forum (first task)

The bunker supply chain up to the point of delivery to the seagoing vessel varies enormously and is highly complicated.

Usually bunker fuels are blended in shore tanks, but blending on board of bunker barges within port limits or blending during delivery does happen.



BUNKER LICENSE

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Why?

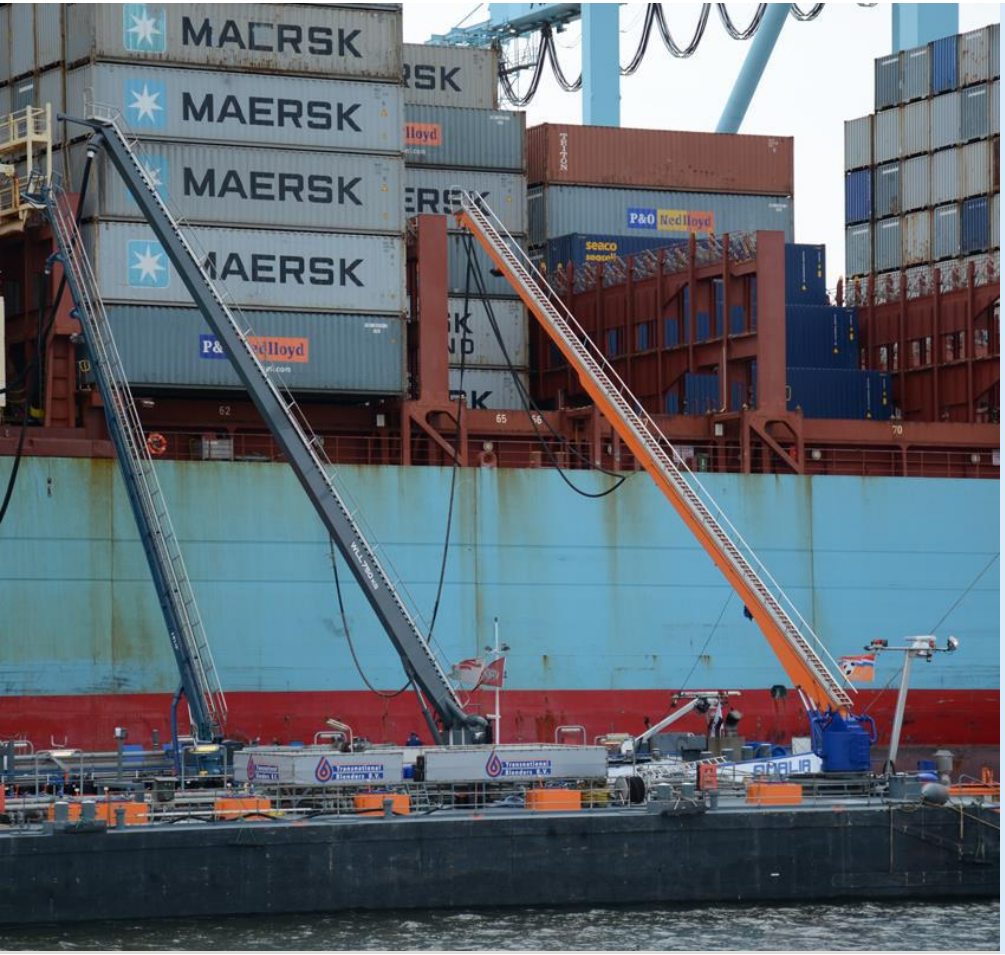

Image:

Bunker market (producers, suppliers and transporters) has gotten a bad name.

Several reports:

- Dirty Diesel (“African blends”): tailor made blends for African automotive markets (not suitable for Europe market)
- National (NL) report on ‘vuile olie’. Blends with (alleged) waste streams

More attention of national and regional police departments and inspection.

Transparancy!

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How?

License:

Bunker market in Rotterdam:

- Major port in the world: 20.000 bunkerings and abt. 9,8 MM m3
- Bunker market wants a license.
- ARA forum on Fuel Oil Quality
- Together with Amsterdam and (preferably) Antwerp (same bunkermarket)
- Based on:
  - Singapore Standards
  - Guidelines of IBIA / IMO
  - ISO standards 8217

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License

Focus on:

- Quantity
  - Measurement standard
- Quality
  - Suspect substances
  - Minimum standard (ISO 8217-XXXX)?
- Bunker surveyor
  - Independent
  - Accredited

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Time frame

Consensus:

- What / Who / When
- Which stakeholders to involve?

- Time frame:
  - 2019: development on license, survey and interview on-going in May and June
  - 1-1-2020 potential date of implementation

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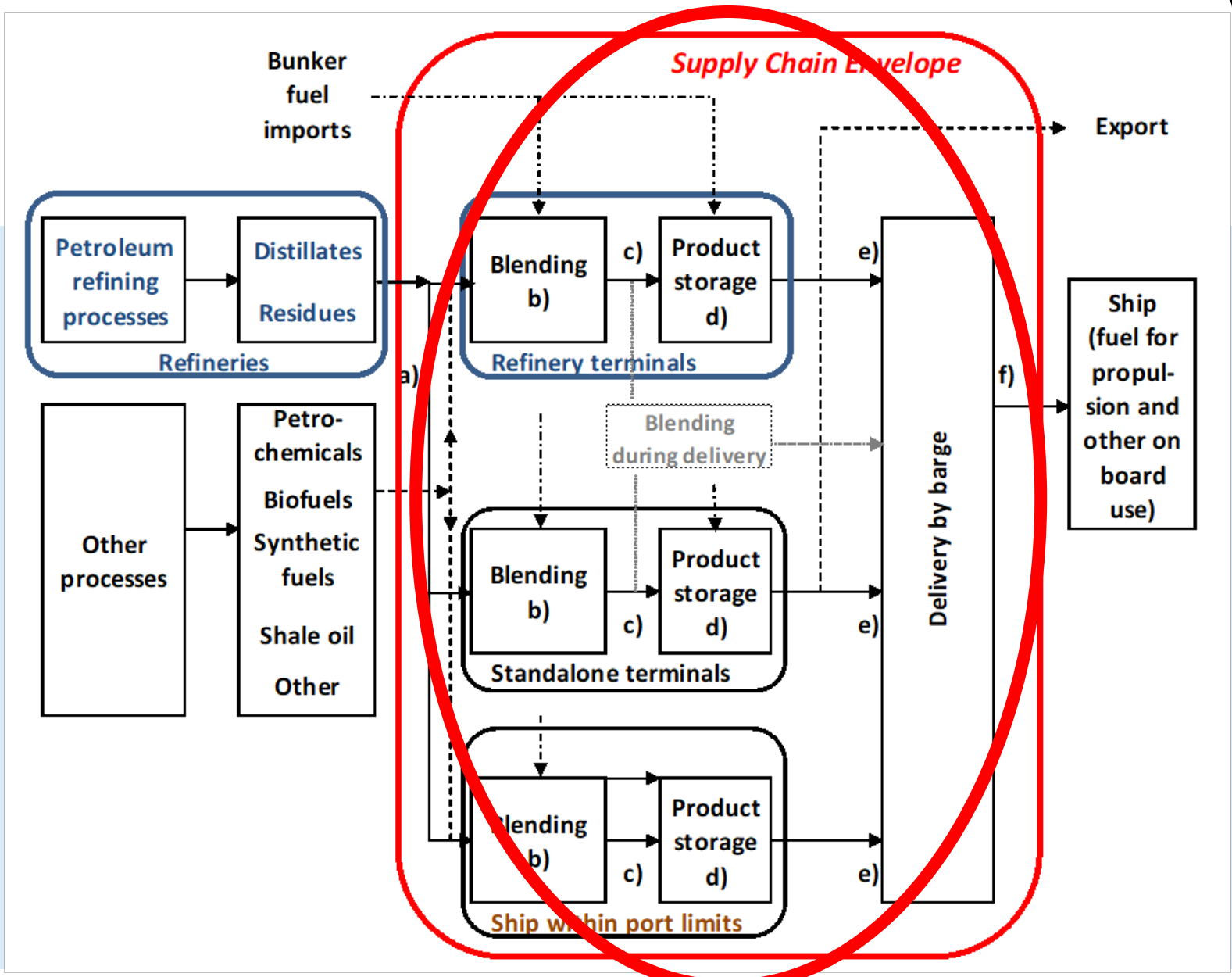
What PoR would like to license



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Future

- **Crucial**:
  - Cooperation between ports (Level Playing Field)
  - Quality:
    - Compatibility: major concern of shipping (e.g. for 2020)
    - Flashpoint
    - Sulphur content
    - Detrimental substances
  - Global introduction of bunker license?
    Update from MEPC 74: a best practice (non mandatory)

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Thank you for your attention!

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