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GENERAL CIRCULAR

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To: The Fleet

Subject: ISM - ECR 5.0 – Lub Oil Sampling Schedule.

In the following you will find useful information on how to take oil samples and the reasons for doing so correctly.

Proper oil sampling is critical to an effective oil analysis program. Without a representative sample, further oil analysis endeavours are futile.

There are two primary goals in obtaining a representative oil sample. The first goal is to maximize data density. The sample should be taken in a way that ensures there is as much information per millilitre of oil as possible.

The second goal is to ensure that the sample extracted is of uniform concentration, consistent and representative. It is important to ensure that the sample does not become contaminated during the sampling process.

Important Tips for Effective Oil Sampling

- 1) Machinery sampled should be running or in operation during sampling. That means, samples should be collected when machines are at normal operating temperatures, loads, pressures and speeds.
- 2) Always sample upstream of filters and downstream of machinery components such as bearings, gears, pistons, cams etc. This will ensure that no particles are being removed by filters or separators.
- 3) Sample points must be clearly identified and marked.
- 4) The best sampling locations are highly turbulent areas where the oil is not flowing in a straight line but is turning and rolling in the pipe.
- 5) Return lines and drain lines heading back to the tank offer the most representative levels of wear debris and contaminants.
- 6) Ensure that sampling valves and sampling devices are thoroughly flushed prior to taking the sample.

7) Ensure that the oil is allowed to cool down to atmospheric temperature in the sample bottle before closing down the bottle cap. This will prevent any condensation of moisture from the hot oil into the oil sample.

8) Forward samples immediately to the oil analysis lab after sampling.

Remember it is the condition of the oil that will determine the longevity and reliability of the operating machinery.

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