

**IDENTIFICATION OF FUEL OIL ADULTERATION
WITH USED LUBRICANT OIL**

EM

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DECLARATION

The work described in this Thesis was carried out by me in the Department of Chemistry, University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka under the supervision of Mr. Nimal Rathnasiri Deputy Manager, Technical Services Laboratory, Ceylon Petroleum Co-operation and Dr. Champa D Jayaweera Senior Lecturer, Department of chemistry, University of Sri Jayawardenapura and a report on this has not been submitted in whole or in part to any University or any other institution for another Degree/Diploma.

Date: 05/07/2016


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DEDICATION

For my supervisors, thank for your guidance and sharing knowledge with me.

For Lanka IOC PLC management and staff, Thank for giving laboratory to use for analyzing samples.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAS	: Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy
Ca	: Calcium
CO	: Carbon Monoxide
CPC	: Ceylon Petroleum Cooperation
Cps	: Counts Per Second
Cu	: Copper
D ₂	: Deuterium
DE	: Degree Of Freedom
ED-XRF	: Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence
FO	: Fuel Oil
IEC	: International Electrotechnical Commission
IOC	: Indian Oil Cooperation
ISO	: International Standard Organization
KeV	: Kilo Electron Volt
LB	: Lab Blend
Li	: Lithium
LOI	: Loss on Ignition
Lube	: Lubricant
Mg	: Magnesium
NIST	: National Institute of Standards and Technology
P	: Phosphorous
Pb	: Lead
PET	: Polyethylene Terephthalate
S	: Sulfur
SE	: Standard Error

Si : Silicon
UL : Used Lubricants
ZDDP : zinc dialkyldithiophosphates
Zn : Zinc

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xi
ABSTRACT	xii
1. CHAPTER 1	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Fuel Oil.....	2
1.2 Lubricant.....	3
1.3 Additives.....	4
1.3.1 Friction Modifiers	4
1.3.2 Anti- wear agents and Extreme pressure additives	5
1.3.3 Detergents.....	7
1.3.4 Dispersant additive.....	7
1.3.5 Pour point depressants.....	7
1.3.6 Viscosity index improvers.....	8
1.3.7 Anti-Oxidant Additives.....	8
1.3.8 Defoamant additives.....	9
1.4 Why additives are used in lubricant oil?	9
1.5 What is used lubes?	9
1.6 What is adulteration?	10
1.7 Fuel Adulteration.....	10
1.8 Fuel oil adulteration.....	11
1.9 Related fuel adulteration researches carried out.....	12

1.10	Bad effects of fuel adulteration	13
1.11	Identification of fuel oil adulteration.....	14
1.12	Aims and Objectives.....	15
2.	CHAPTER 2	16
	EXPERIMENTAL METHODOLOGY	16
2.1	Principal of ED-XRF	16
2.2	Basic principles and concepts of ED-XRF	19
2.2.1	Drift correction.....	19
2.2.2	Preparation for deconvolution – finding the line group	19
2.2.3	Line overlap.....	20
2.2.4	Line Overlap correction	20
2.2.5	Air pressure correction.....	20
2.2.6	Matrix effect.....	20
2.2.7	Matrix correction.....	21
2.2.8	Normalization.....	21
2.2.9	Normalization factor	21
2.3	Experimental Procedure for ED-XRF	21
2.3.1	Reagents and Materials for ED-XRF analysis	21
2.3.2	Preparation of sample cups	22
2.3.3	Cleaning of Glassware	23
2.4	Sampling and Sample Storage.....	23
2.4.1	Sampling.....	23
2.4.2	Sample storage	24
2.5	Apparatus and Equipment	25
2.5.1	Parameters of X-Ray Tube.....	26
2.5.2	Filters fitted to the system	26

2.5.3	Dimensions of Spectrometer cabinet.....	26
2.5.4	Components of Spectrometer Chamber	27
2.5.5	Components of the optical path.....	27
2.6	ED-XRF Analysis.....	27
2.6.1	Calibration of ED-XRF for Ca, Zn, P	27
2.6.2	Analysis of Used lubes oil samples.....	28
2.6.3	Analyzing of Fuel Oil samples.....	29
2.6.4	Preparation and analyzing of laboratory blends.....	29
2.6.5	Preparation of Laboratory blend samples.....	29
2.7	Cleaning of Glassware and Disposal of Used Samples.....	30
2.7.1	Cleaning of Glassware	30
2.7.2	Disposal of waste	30
2.8	AAS Analysis	30
2.8.1	Analyzing of fuel oil samples from other laboratory	30
2.8.2	Basic principles and concepts of AAS	30
2.9	Interferences occurring in AAS.....	31
2.9.1	Spectral line interference.....	31
2.9.2	Scattering.....	32
2.9.3	Broad Band Absorption.....	32
2.10	Background Correction methods.....	32
2.10.1	The Continuum Source Method (D ₂ Lamp Method)	32
2.10.2	Zeeman Background Correction Method.....	34
2.11	AAS Analysis	35
2.11.1	Reagents and materials.....	35
2.12	Preparation of Reagents and Cleanings of tools and Glassware	36
2.12.1	Cleaning of Platinum basin	36

2.12.2	Cleaning of Glassware	36
2.12.3	Preparation of tartaric acid/ hydrochloric solution.....	36
2.12.4	Preparation of Hydrochloric acid solution (1+1)	36
2.12.5	Preparation of Toluene/propan-2-ol mixture (1+1).....	37
2.12.6	Preparation of Calcium standard Stock solution (1000 mg/l).....	37
2.12.7	Preparation of Zinc standard Stock solution (1000 mg/l)	37
2.12.8	Preparation of Flux.....	37
2.12.9	Preparation of Ca Calibration series.....	37
2.12.10	Preparation of Zn Calibration series.....	38
2.12.11	Preparation of blank solution.....	38
2.12.12	Preparation of sample	38
2.12.13	Test solution preparation	38
2.13	AAS settings	39
2.14	Instrument Calibration.....	39
2.15	Analysis of the sample.....	40
3.	CHAPTER 3	41
	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	41
3.1	Readings of ED-XRF analysis.....	41
3.1.1	Readings for the Calibration of ED-XRF.....	41
3.1.2	Readings for Used lubricant analysis	44
3.1.3	Readings of adulterated Fuel Oil samples.....	45
3.1.4	Readings of Laboratory blend samples	48
3.2	Readings of AAS analysis	49
3.2.1	Readings for the Calibration of AAS for Calcium determination.....	49
3.2.2	Calculation of Calcium content in sample	53
3.2.3	Readings for the Calibration of AAS for Zinc determination.....	54

3.2.4	Calculation of Zinc content in sample.....	57
3.3	Calculation of mean, standard deviation and variance for ED-XRF readings.....	58
3.4	Calculation of mean, standard deviation and variance for AAS readings.....	62
3.5	Hypothesis test for the comparison of two means.....	63
3.5.1	Hypothesis results for Calcium determination.....	64
3.5.2	Hypothesis results for Zn determination.....	65
	Conclusion.....	67
	References.....	70
	APPENDIX 1.....	73
	APPENDIX 2.....	79
	APPENDIX 3.....	85
	APPENDIX 4.....	88

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2:1 Calibration series for ED-XRF taken from NIST	22
Table 2:2 Parameters of X-Ray tube	26
Table 2:3 Types of filters fitted into ED-XRF	26
Table 2:4 Parameters of ED-XRF	27
Table 2:5 AAS settings	39
Table 3:1 Calibration readings for Ca	41
Table 3:2 Calibration readings for P	42
Table 3:3 Calibration readings for Zn	43
Table 3:4 Triplicate readings of Ca, Zn and P for used lubricant samples	44
Table 3:5: Average concentrations of Ca, Zn and P in used lubricant samples	44
Table 3:6: Concentration of Ca, Zn, and P in composite sample of all used lubricant samples.....	45
Table 3:7: Triplicate Concentrations of Ca, Zn and P of adulterated Fuel oil samples	45
Table 3:8 Average concentrations of Ca, Zn and P of adulterated fuel oil samples	46
Table 3:9: Triplicate Concentrations of Ca,Zn and P of laboratory blends	48
Table 3:10: Average concentrations of Ca, Zn and P in laboratory blending samples	48
Table 3:11: Absorbance for the calibration of Ca	49
Table 3:12: Absorbance of Ca working standards for the determination of Sample ID CS/15/634.....	50
Table 3:13: Sample readings for the analysis of Ca content in first analysis.....	51
Table 3:14: Sample readings for the analysis of Ca content in second analysis.....	51
Table 3:15: Average concentration of Ca in fuel oil samples	53
Table 3:16: Absorbance for calibration series of Zn.....	54
Table 3:17: Sample readings for the analysis of Zn content in first analysis.....	55
Table 3:18: Sample readings for the analysis of Zn content in second analysis.....	56
Table 3:19: Average concentrations of Zn in fuel oil samples	57
Table 3:20: Mean, Standard Deviation and Variance for calcium determination in adulterated fuel oil.....	58
Table 3:21: Mean, Standard Deviation and Variance for Zinc determination in adulterated fuel oil.....	59

Table 3:22: Mean, Standard Deviation and Variance for Phosphorous determination in adulterated fuel oil.....	60
Table 3:23: Mean, Standard Deviation and Variance for the determination of Calcium	62
Table 3:24: Mean, Standard Deviation and Variance for the determination of Zinc.....	62
Table 3:25: Calculation of SE, DF and t-score for Calcium determination.....	64
Table 3:26: Interpretation of results for Calcium determination.....	64
Table 3:27: Calculation of SE, DF and T-score for Zinc determination.....	65
Table 3:28: Interpretation of Results for Zn determination	66
Table 3:29 Percentages of adulterated used lubes in fuel oils.....	67
Table 3:30 Adulterated percentages and number of samples.....	68

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1:1 Friction modifiers adsorption on to the metal surfaces	5
Figure 1:2 Compounds of phosphorus used as an anti-wear and extreme pressure additives	6
Figure 1:3 Chemical structure for zinc dialkyldithiophosphates anti wear and extreme pressure additives	6
Figure 2:1 Generation of $K\alpha$ and $K\beta$ using X-Ray incident beam.....	16
Figure 2:2 Block diagram of ED-XRF	17
Figure 2:3 Sample cup preparations for ED-XRF.....	23
Figure 2:4 Sample Map	24
Figure 2:5 Schematic diagram of AAS	31
Figure 2:6 Schematic diagram of Deuterium background correction method.....	33
Figure 2:7 Schematic diagram of the Zeeman background correction	34
Figure 3:1 Calibration curve for Ca in ED-XRF determination.....	41
Figure 3:2 Calibration Curve for P in ED-XRF determination.....	42
Figure 3:3 Calibration Curve for Zn in ED-XRF determination.....	43
Figure 3:4 Calibration curve for Ca working standard for AAS determination.....	49
Figure 3:5 Calibration curve of Ca working standard for analyzing sample ID CS/15/634 in AAS.....	50
Figure 3:6 Calibration curve for the analysis of Zn content in fuel oil samples using AAS.....	55

ABSTRACT

This thesis seeks to identify fuel oil adulteration in Sri Lanka. Fuel oil can be adulterated by using waste lubricants, waste products and by-products. Adulterated fuel oil creates significant issues especially in the industries where fuel oil is being used for manufacturing and on their day to day functions. This research focuses to obtain details from fuel oil consumers about the quality of the fuel oil, which they have purchased from the suppliers and to discuss about the problems they have faced during usage.

Additives are used in the manufacturing of lubricants and these contain Zn, Ca and/or P. Hence used lubes contain Zn, Ca and/or P and can be determined by ED-XRF analysis. Reference fuel oil does not contain those elements. Presence of those elements in marketed fuel oil can be considered as adulterated fuel oil with used lubes. Suspected fuel oils were collected from Industries, Tankers and sale points. Reference fuel oil samples were collected from Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. Reference fuel oil was analyzed for elements Calcium, Zinc and Phosphorous using ED-XRF installed in Lanka IOC PLC Trincomalee and it was confirmed that Ca, Zn and P were not contained in pure fuel oil. Used lubricants were tested using the same ED-XRF method and it was found that those elements contained in some used lubricants oil samples. Marketed fuel oils were analyzed using the same instrument and method and determined the content of Ca, Zn and P. Presence of a significant level of element content in Fuel oil could be identified as adulterated fuel oil using waste lubricants.

Same selected fuel oil samples (10 numbers) were analyzed in an outside laboratory for the confirmation of the accuracy of the readings taken from ED-XRF. Lindel Industrial Laboratories Limited (ISO/IEC 17025 certified) laboratory was selected as outside laboratory and AAS test method was used to determine the content of Calcium and Zinc in fuel oil samples. Statistical analysis was used to compare the readings taken from ED-XRF and AAS. It was observed that 26 fuel oil samples out of 40 samples were adulterated with used lubricant.

Laboratory blends in certain percentages of reference fuel oil and used lubricant were used to get an idea about the adulterated percentages of used lubricant in fuel oil.