

The UK Major Oil Companies Safe Loading Pass Scheme

Black oil (fuel oil) trailers.

Background

Incidents have occurred where bottom loading 'white oil' tankers have been used for carrying fuel oil grades ('black oil'). Specifically, fuel oil has entered the tanker's vapour recovery system and even been transferred to the terminal's vapour pipework where it has cooled and blocked the vapour flow. This was probably caused by the vapour transfer valves being jammed open in transit, caused by fuel oil solidifying around them.

In addition, an incident has arisen of a tanker designed for bottom loading being presented for a green safe loading pass which had no safe access / walkway to the fill hole covers.

New SLP inspection requirements for black oil trailers (Green pass)

1. Tankers equipped for bottom loading are not considered suitable for loading fuel oil / black oil grades and should not be issued with a green pass.
2. Tankers which do not feature a sound walkway and safe access to fill hole covers should not be issued with a green pass.