



# MARINE FLUID SAMPLING GUIDELINES BEST PRACTICE

A fluid sampling program is an essential tool for both preventative maintenance and condition monitoring of critical machinery. The value of your analysis programme is entirely dependent on maintaining the sample routines and ensuring the integrity of the sample.

Please consider the following points:

- Samples should be taken from the same position on every occasion. This position should be clearly marked “Sampling Point” with a permanent label. Furthermore, identify and mark multiple sample points if more than one used on a single item of equipment.
- The sample point should be permanently situated before oil system filtration and in full flow unless multiple sample points are used to check filtration performance.
- Prior to lube oil sampling, equipment should be running at operating temperature with oil in full circulation. If using dipstick housing or filler cap, equipment should then be shut down allowing sample to be taken within 20 minutes to 30 minutes. \*\*
- Prior to hydraulic oil sampling, equipment should be at operating temperature and always depressurise before sampling.
- The sample point should be checked clean and free of debris prior to taking sample.
- Sample point should be flushed into waste bottle for a few seconds, to ensure fluid is representative sample, prior to filling bottle that is to be sent for analysis.
- Fill the sample bottle to the top and ensure the bottle cap is tightly screwed and secure.
- Complete the sample bottle label and place on the bottle. Ensure ALL information is clearly marked on the label as failure to provide all data can have a detrimental effect on the integrity of the report and can jeopardize the trend analysis accuracy.
- Sample should be sent for analysis as soon as possible.

\*\* Care should be taken when handling hot fluids during sampling.  
Caution when sampling high pressure hydraulic systems – ALWAYS de-pressurise before sampling.

## **DO NOT**

- Take oil samples from system drain lines, unless 2 stroke cylinder oil.
- Take oil samples from a sample point which is after the oil system filtration or centrifuge unless intentional.
- Use a previously used sample bottle, cap or tubing.
- Push the tube to the sump bottom when using the dipstick hole.