

Information on Green Award lubrication and oil requirements

for Oil tanker, Bulk carrier and Chemical tanker



Why new requirements for (lubrication) oils?

The majority of sea going vessels operates with oil lubricated stern tubes and uses (lubricating) oils in large number of applications in deck appliances.

Possibility of stern tube leakages and operational discharges led to a need to evaluate alternatives to these oils and ways to monitor and prevent discharge of lubricants during ship operations in ports and at sea. According to 2009 report by Environmental Research Consulting (the “Etkin Report”) each year in over 1.7 million vessel port visits, 4.6 to 28.6 million liters of lubricating oil leaks from stern tubes and 32.3 million liters of oil is input to marine waters from other operational discharges and leaks. What is more, International Maritime Organization Marine Environment Protection Committee (IMO MEPC, 2008) meetings estimated that 80 million liters of oil-based lubricants are lost at sea annually from stern tubes alone.

According to the above we included a new group of requirements: “Lubrication and Use of Oils” and divided them into three elements:

- **5810** – Stern tube lubrication;
- **5811** – Mooring wire lubrication;
- **5812** – Deck equipment lubrication (use of oils).

The European Ecolabel for Lubricants (EEL)

As the environmental performance standard for lubricants we have chosen “The European Ecolabel for Lubricants” (EEL).

EEL scheme was developed by IVAM Research and Consultancy on Sustainability. IVAM is a research and consultancy agency in the field of sustainability, originating from the Interfaculty Environmental Science Department (IVAM) of the Universiteit van Amsterdam (UvA) and the “Chemiewinkel Amsterdam”. Since 1993 IVAM has formed an independent unit within UvA Holding BV.

The European Ecolabel for Lubricants is a voluntary and independent scheme designed to unify several national ecolabels for products in low and high-risk lubrication. EEL identifies products meeting minimum requirements for technical performance with only limited danger to the aquatic environment and a high fraction of renewable raw materials. It sets strict and clear criteria that require detailed information on any substance intentionally added to the product. Voted requirements are published as the European Union Commission Decision.

Products assessed according to EEL scheme have to meet the requirements of six criteria:

1. Excluded or limited substances and mixtures;
2. Exclusion of specific substances;
3. Additional aquatic toxicity requirements;
4. Biodegradability and bioaccumulative potential;
5. Renewable raw materials;
6. Minimum technical performance (based on commonly accepted industry or manufacturer standards).

Products that can be assessed according to EEL are put into five categories:

Category 1: hydraulic fluids and tractor transmission oils;

Category 2: greases and stern tube greases;

Category 3: chainsaw oils, concrete release agents, wire rope lubricants, stern tube oils and other total loss lubricants;

Category 4: two-stroke oils;

Category 5: industrial and marine gear oils.

GA requirements for (lubricating) oils are categorized according to those which can be used onboard ships and which can be certified to the EEL criteria.