

DNA tracer technology

A powerful new risk management tool to assist both ship and cargo owners in their costly fight against claims and disputes arising from pollution, oil spills and discharges.



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Forecast Technology has pioneered the development of synthetic DNA tracer technology as a simple and inexpensive method of marking vessel cargoes and other hydrocarbons, including residues found in slops and bilges. The tracer provides indisputable proof of source in order to avoid and/or minimise extremely costly and time-consuming disputes on culpability and regulatory compliance issues.

For further information or discussion on any aspect of the science, design and qualities of this pioneering technology, please visit Forecast Technology's website at www.forecasttechnology.com or contact Dudley Chapman, Stuart Hall or Robert Armstrong, directly on +44 1869 337558.

The issue

Claims and disputes arising from pollution, oil spills and discharges result in ever-escalating legal, investigation and insurance-loss adjustment costs, as well as major disruption to operations, irrespective of fault.

The product

Researched, developed and tested at the laboratories of Minton Treharne and Davies in Cardiff, Forecast Technology's synthetic DNA tracer can be coded with the signature number issued to every vessel by the IMO, thereby adding a permanent and unique 'fingerprint' to all onboard fluids irrespective of whether they are oil or water based.

Forecast Technology's range of patented synthetic DNA-based tracers are easy to transport and straightforward to administer with minimal interference to operations. The use of synthetic DNA makes the tracer robust, water resistant and incorruptible, and as a naturally occurring material, these tracers are environmentally friendly and generate no side effects harmful to marine or human life.

Proof of culpability

The tracer technology was designed to address an increasingly unsatisfactory situation for shipowners and cargo owners alike (as well as underwriters and insurers), where even the most spurious of claims raised by regulators or third parties in the aftermath of an oil spill/discharge or a pollution incident is likely to result in huge legal defence and root cause investigation costs, often amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars, in addition to a major

disruption of operations. Adoption of the DNA tracer system offers a speedy and indisputable method of proving or disproving culpability that will bring transparency to any situation and help simplify this area of compliance with legislation and regulation.

The potential benefit

The potential cost saving to shipowners from the introduction of this technology is obvious and substantial. Forecast Technology's synthetic DNA tracer system provides clear and indisputable proof of source and can affirm both guilt or innocence. International law requires that vessels use pollution prevention equipment to preclude the discharge of waste oil and oil-contaminated waste water. Should any overboard discharges occur, they must be documented in an oil record book. Falsification of the oil record book is by far the most common offence cited during prosecution of environmental crimes. Forecast Technology's synthetic tracer system is designed to help eradicate such practices and assist crew in maintaining an accurate oil record book.

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