

## **Abstract**

Inspecting cargo tanks on board chemical tankers by means of the 'wall-wash' method can be time-consuming and not without risks. Successfully passing a 'wall-wash' test doesn't provide the charterer with a guarantee that the planned cargo can be loaded without any risk of it being contaminated. Could washwater analysis prove to be a safer alternative method and at the same time provide more reliable information?

In this research paper I describe the shortcomings and limitations of the 'wall-wash' method and I investigate whether washwater analysis can indeed be an alternative.

The research method used for this paper consists of practical experience of the chemical tanker industry and a study of relevant literature concerning the concept of washwater analysis.

In the end, this inquiry shows that washwater analysis can, despite its imperfections, offer the industry a viable alternative for cargo tank inspections. At the same time, this method offers additional advantages to the charterer, the vessels crew and the environment.

An increasing amount of charterers has meanwhile started to accept washwater analysis as a conclusive inspection process. As time goes by, the importance of washwater analysis as an inspection method will only increase, unless other -more superior- methods get developed.