



ELECTROMAXX TRUSTS SHELL FUELS

Electro-maxx a power producer in Uganda recently visited the Vivo Energy operations at Mombasa Terminal in Kenya to understand quality control in fuels. We caught up with Edward Gumisiriza, Project Manager of Electromaxx to learn more about the visit and what goes into fuel quality assurance.

Who is Electro-Maxx and what is your relationship with Shell?

Electro-Maxx is the first Indigenous Independent Power Producer in Africa with over 50MW capacity. It was founded and funded by Ugandans with a power plant situated in Tororo. Vivo Energy Uganda the company that distributes and markets Shell branded fuels and lubricants is proud of the great relationship enjoyed with Electro-Maxx over the years since 2009 as a preferred supplier of fuels and lubricants to the Power Plant. The fuels mainly supplied is Heavy Furnace Oil referred to as HFO Power Spec or Tsavo Spec and the lubricant is Argina a product of Shell.

What was the purpose of your recent visit to the Mombasa terminal?

Together with Vivo Energy Uganda team, we visited the Vivo Energy laboratory in Mombasa to gain a better appreciation of the supply chain process and quality controls in place for Shell fuels. We also used this as an opportunity to acquaint our power plant chief chemist in the quality control tests conducted for Shell fuels, to experience the process firsthand.

What impressed you the most about your visit?

We appreciated the opportunity to test firsthand the elaborate process of quality checks conducted for Shell fuels. We took samples of the product from a tank

dedicated to our product and samples were shared with an independent laboratory as well as to our own premises in Tororo for testing. We conducted the tests at the Vivo Energy lab in Mombasa to confirm that they matched the required specs. Moreover we compared results from all three tests to confirm that they were consistent and accurate.

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What tests did you conduct to confirm the process?

We conducted elaborate tests to confirm the viscosity which determines measure of thickness of Heavy Fuel Oil. We further tested the density which is a primary check for contamination and quantity. In our operations the Sulphur content is critical as it affects equipment and poses

environmental concerns. We were able to test for this as well as the burning characteristics of the fuel. Other tests we conducted checked for presence of water in the fuel, heat produced by complete combustion and residue left after fuel combustion. We also confirmed the lowest temperature at which the fuel would flow under certain prescribed conditions. All these are necessary tests to deliver quality fuel for our operations.

Besides the quality process, what else impressed you?

The opportunity to not only appreciate the quality process but also the effort that goes into the rest of the supply chain such as ship offloading and loading of trucks procedure, sampling, monitoring and segregation of massive fuel storage tanks (product) and the detailed safety precautions in place was quite impressive. We also had an opportunity to visit other independent international recognized laboratories such as Intertek and SGS which work in collaboration with Vivo Energy.

Is there anything you would replicate in your company from your visit?

We recorded several learnings especially in the area of Health and Safety that we are eager to include in our already existing safety processes. We are also keen to see our own Chief chemist spearhead our quality efforts with the additional learnings gained from the visit. We are proud to work with a partner that has invested in building customer trust through quality assurance and safety.

