

Service Bulletin

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Corrosion problems related to defective backflushing cycle and high bilge water temperature

System applicability: Marinfloc CD and TD units

Background

It has been found necessary to point out, that if the backflushing cycle has not been carried out according to the manual instructions, severe corrosion problems may occur in a very short period of time.

There are four major reasons to these corrosion problems:

- The system has not been properly backflushed with fresh water after having completed a full bilge water cleaning and discharge operation.
- The chloride content in the treated water has been above 1000 ppm. A high chloride concentration (i.e. >1000 ppm), combined with acidic bilge water with a pH value below 6.0, will further accelerate the corrosion rate.
- The temperature of the bilge water to be treated has been >55 °C.
- Salt water (high chloride concentration) standing still in the filter stages.

To prevent and avoid these problems we would like to stress the importance of:

1. Keeping the temperature of the bilge water to be treated at maximum 55 °C.
2. After each completed bilge water cleaning and discharge operation (i.e. if the unit will be stopped for one hour or more): backflush the system with fresh water of a temperature of 65 °C or at least 5 °C higher than the process water temperature.
3. Install cathodic protection using sacrificial zinc anodes with an iron core. The sacrificial anodes are to be inserted into the top plug of the three filter stages. The anodes are bought from Marinfloc, article no. CD-099-0015110.