

Decision support forecast for the intervention of transshipment actions at Amsterdam harbour

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As part of a health programme within KNMI recently a new product was developed, helping regional authorities in the intervening of transshipment of petrochemicals. Daily transshipments in the Amsterdam harbour of these chemicals may result in large numbers of complaints by citizens, very much depending on the actual weather situation.

An initial investigation showed the most important weather parameters being wind (direction and speed) and the stability of the mixing layer. Together with an already existing pollution index (AVA-index), this information is updated 4 times a day and sent to the authorities in Zaandam. In situations of forecasted adverse weather, the regional authorities will contact the transshipping companies and discuss possible solutions to reduce the number of complaints.

The new product also contains a decision summary, in which the forecasted colour-code is forecasted on a hourly basis. These colours give fast access to the underlying more detailed information and are coupled to criteria set by the customer. Hirlam data is used to determine the overall colour, since each of the parameters may meet the criteria or not. In the presentation, examples will be given and the generic approach will be discussed.