

Bulletin



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TO ALL MEMBERS
Sent by fax /email

Loading of iron ore fines at Indian ports – protective pre-loading surveys

In view of recent casualties involving ships carrying iron ore fines loaded at Indian ports, the Club is now implementing a precautionary survey programme.

The purpose of this programme is to ensure that cargo carried has moisture levels within the safe transportable limit and that cargoes that are not safe for transportation and pose a risk of liquefaction are rejected. Moisture levels will be monitored throughout the loading operation. Fees incurred will be paid directly by the Association. This survey programme does not include draught surveys.

Members will be aware of the overriding obligation of owners/operators/Masters to ensure that cargoes to be carried comply with SOLAS and the IMO BC Code. Those obligations remain, notwithstanding the appointment of P&I surveyors to assist the Master during loading operations. Ultimately the Master remains responsible for the safety of his ship.

Members with ships fixed to load iron ore fines at any Indian port should contact the Club and/or our correspondent, Pandi Correspondents PVT Ltd., Mumbai, as soon as possible, but at least four working days prior to commencement of loading so that pre-load cargo samples can be analysed. The main ports at which these cargoes are loaded are; Kolkata, Haldia, Paradip, Chennai, Kakinada, Krishnapatnam, Visakhapatnam, N. Mangalore and Mormugoa and our correspondents covering each of these ports will have nominated surveyors on standby to assist.