

CARGO

CARGO SAFETY AWARENESS

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SAFETY RELATED TO CARGO

Purpose

Provide guidelines to ensure safety of the crew who are responsible in cargo handling

Scope

Applicable when dealing with cargoes

Cargo Safety Precautions - General

- Crew working on car decks should wear appropriate PPE including high visibility vests.
- Strict Fire precautions are to be taken at all times.
- "NO SMOKING" to be complied with in car decks and ensure the signage is clearly visible.
- The stevedores to be informed of same and this to be discussed during the pre-cargo operations meeting.
- The stowage of cargo shall not obstruct safe access to fire fighting and life saving equipment.
- Lighting on the car decks and accesses to be regularly checked and maintained.
- Any spillage of oil and/ or fuel from vehicles to be cleaned immediately, if necessary cargo operations should be suspended until the area is considered safe.

Procedure for Isolation of Fire Detectors in Car Decks

- Fire Detectors in Car Decks are to be isolated during cargo operations.
- Detectors on only those decks where cargo operations are working need to be isolated.
- OOW must ensure that whenever the detectors in car deck are isolated or "Disconnected" for the period of cargo operation or any maintenance work, then on the completion of such work or cargo operation, the detectors must be "Connected".
- Isolation of Fire Detector is done from the Fire Detection Panel on the Bridge or the Ship's Control Centre.
- All indicators on the Detection Panel showing decks that are isolated must be in working condition.
- As additional precaution, a placard must be placed at the Fire Detection Panel indicating that the Decks are isolated.
- Fire detectors should be reconnected whenever car decks are left unattended for long periods, for example those due to breaks by stevedores, suspension of loading etc.

Dangerous Cargo in Packaged Form

- Check if vessel is certified for carriage of any IMDG cargo ref "Document of Compliance for carriage of Dangerous Goods".
- Never accept dangerous cargos and notify HA/charterer immediately if such cargo:
 - o Is not included in the list of cargoes vessel is certified to carry,
 - Is not properly documented
- The precautions with respect to safe stowage and carriage as detailed in Document of Compliance and IMDG code to be complied with.

Cargo with Abnormal Radiation Levels

- When cargo with abnormal radiation levels are discovered by authorities and the vessel has already left the loading terminal, the following apply:
 - o If possible move the unit to a fixed deck and an area with coverage of one bilge well only
 - Wash down the cargo with fresh water and control measure the cargo after cleaning
 - o If the radiation level is within the recommended levels no further action is required
 - o If the values are still above recommended levels, the unit must be clearly marked. Please report to your Superintendent and issue a HIS report
- Water going into bilges will have an insignificant amount of radiation. The water that is processed through our Bilge handling system, including OWS will not cause any harm to the crew.



MANAGEMENT

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Regular Vehicles

- Ensure adequate ventilation supply and exhaust to remove fumes and exhaust gases from vehicles
- Ensure adequate illumination in the cargo spaces.
- Wear reflectors to be clearly visible and avoid being accidentally hit. Be alert and stay away from the drive-ways. Never trust drivers that will always see you first to avoid you.
- Be aware of typical sources of fire incidents fuel leaks and loose electrical connections
- Oil leaks from vehicles should be wiped or covered with absorbents right away and be cleaned to avoid slips/falls.
- Jump-starting of a car shall only be done when no other car is being refueled at the same time. Preferably, cars in its vicinity should be discharged first before attempting jump-starting.

New energy/electric vehicles

- Fires from batteries of electric vehicles requires special fire-fighting techniques.
- Special stowage space for electric vehicles for their isolation.

References/Links

- HA Cargo Quality Manual
- International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, (IMDG) and supplements Ed. 2018
- SOLAS Consolidated edition 2014, Chapter VII Part A.
- **QSM 5.3.6 Fire Prevention**