

Responsibilities of Various Stakeholders

Responsibilities of the Shipper

Shippers should provide the Master or his representative with appropriate information on the cargo well before loading to ensure that the necessary precautions for proper stowage and safe carriage of the cargo are put into effect.

The cargo information includes:

- ⌘ general description of the cargo
- ⌘ gross mass of the cargo or the cargo units
- ⌘ any relevant special properties of the cargo
- ⌘ information on the stowage factor of the cargo
- ⌘ trimming procedures
- ⌘ certificate on the moisture content of the cargo
- ⌘ chemical properties that may pose a threat to safety onboard

Prior loading cargo units onboard ships, the shippers should ensure that the gross mass of such units is in accordance with the gross mass declared on the shipping documents.

Responsibilities of the Owner and Manager

The owner should notify any deficiencies to the shippers in advance. He should also notify the shippers if he intends to reject the cargo or clausing the mate's receipts and bills of lading. This notification can be given directly to the shippers but is more commonly given to the agents, stevedores or charterers, depending on the owner's contractual relations.

If owners require a surveyor for their ship to carry out a pre-loading survey, then the instructions given should be comprehensive, precise and given as early as possible, allowing sufficient time for the surveyor to conduct an efficient survey. This process will avoid confusion and disagreement later when the surveyor presents his report and invoice.

An instruction that the surveyor should 'carry out a pre-loading survey' is inadequate and leaves the surveyor in doubt as to how far his duties extend. In these circumstances, the surveyor would simply inspect the cargo on the quay, possibly prior to the ship's arrival if all the cargo has been delivered, and report to the Master on its condition and present his written report. Most surveyors would take their duties a little further and advise the Master on the clausing of the mate's receipts and offer advice on loading and stowage, if requested by the Master. However, precise instructions would avoid confusion.

Ship Superintendent - Marine

Cargo Carriage

Responsibilities of Master

Masters and deck officers, employed by shipowners, are usually trained to take care of pre-shipment inspections. Some companies usually employ cargo superintendents to handle any cargo related issues. They may also have their own network of contracted surveyors, who can be called upon quickly, to load unusual cargo.

In many instances, loading operations commence immediately upon the ship's arrival and there is little time for the ship's personnel to inspect the cargo. It is very useful and cost effective to employ a competent local surveyor in such cases.