

Prior to loading

1. Ensure holds are clean, dry and free from odour
2. Ensure bilges are clean, free from odour and tested
3. Test bilge non-return valves and high level alarms (where fitted)
4. Protect bilge covers with burlap and secure in place (bulk cargoes)
5. Flush sounding and thermometer pipes with water
6. Check holds for signs of infestation
7. Ensure ventilation arrangements (eg fans, trunkings, dampers, seals) are working correctly
8. Verify that hatch covers and hold access doors are watertight
9. Test smoke detection and smothering systems (where fitted)
10. Ensure tank top manhole gaskets are sound and that covers are tight
11. Ensure ballast suction cover plates are secure (ballast holds only)
12. Record details of pre-loading measures in the deck logbook

Loading

13. Discuss dunnaging plan with stevedores
14. Ensure only sound cargo is loaded¹
15. Measure and record cargo temperatures regularly during loading

- 16. Reject any cargo with abnormally excessive temperatures
- 17. Monitor weather conditions carefully and close hatches at the first sign of rain
- 18. Ensure equipment for measuring hold dew point temperature is available and working

Additional for bagged cargo

- 19. Cover tank top with double dunnage or bamboo²
- 20. Position dunnage or bamboo crosswise against frames, interwoven to provide a barrier
- 21. Cover dunnage/bamboo and all exposed steelwork with fibre matting or kraft liner
- 22. Prevent use of cargo handling hooks by stevedores
- 23. Ensure bags are not loaded in the spaces between frames
- 24. Follow requirements of shippers/charterers regarding construction of ventilation channels³

On passage

- 1. Record hold dewpoints, external air dewpoint and sea temperature once per watch⁴
- 2. Follow enclosed space safety procedures if necessary to enter holds
- 3. Continue, stop or resume ventilation in accordance with Dewpoint or Three Degree Rule

4. Record times when ventilation was commenced, stopped or resumed
5. Record details of necessary halting of ventilation due to heavy weather or precipitation
6. Record soundings of cargo hold bilges at least daily
7. Inspect in-hold steelwork for condensation (again following enclosed space procedures)
8. Record details if signs of cargo deterioration are observed
9. Ensure ventilation and bilge sounding records are retained in case of cargo claims
10. Notify club correspondent at discharge port prior to arrival if cargo deterioration occurs

¹ Reject bags which are torn, stained, damp or in otherwise suspect condition.

² Lay first layer in direction of the bilges, not more than 20 cms apart. Lay second layer at right angles to the first.

³ For certain bagged cargoes, ventilation channels may be required by the IMDG Code, (eg some types of seed cake, fishmeal).

⁴ Dewpoint Rule only. If following the Three Degree Rule, record external air temperature and sea temperature once per watch.