

Ref : DMA/AIFI/96/C 841

Date: 29/10/2017

Dear Captain
Good Day,

This is to inform that recently an accident was reported from one of the fleet vessels concerning oil spillage and pollution when alongside and delivering sludge to shore truck, which caused cost, claim and delay.

The description and root cause quoted below is as per report received from the vessel.

Description of incident:

Whilst vessel completed discharging of sludge to the truck and just after disconnecting the discharging pipe, it was noticed that sludge and oily water had spilled from blanked delivery pipe on the opposite side, which despite of quick respond of ship staff, some sludge and oily water spilled over board into the sea and caused pollution.

Cause of incident:

After investigation by ship staff , it was revealed that :

- 1- Lack of a valve on port and stbd sludge discharge pipeline.
- 2- Failure of gasket used under flange of sludge discharge pipeline, despite of being blanked and fully bolted.
- 3- Plug of drip tray had been left open.
- 4- Although deck scuppers were closed but the one after drip tray was not effectively tight and thus allowed sludge and oily water to leak over board.

Lessons to be learnt:

- 1- It is advisable to revise the design to mount a valve on each sludge discharge pipeline port and stbd .
- 2- Plugs of drip trays to be double checked to ensure that they are properly closed before commencement of operation .

- 3- Main deck scupper plugs to be checked for being tightly and effectively closed before commencement of operation .
- 4- Deck rounds by watch man to be more frequent and vigilant during such operations.
- 5- Proper type of gaskets to be used and same to be checked for any defect prior to being used under the flange.

You are requested to confirm receipt, discuss the contents in the next consolidated meeting on board & keep a copy in the file DA-11 .

Best Regards,

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