

MEMBER ALERT

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BULK CHEMICAL SAMPLING PROCEDURES

We are grateful to Andrew Moore & Associates Ltd for providing the following recommended sampling procedures, which should be observed by all Members engaged in the carriage of bulk chemicals:

1.0 General

- For protection against cargo claims, it is essential that a cargo sampling procedure is implemented and adhered to on board each vessel.
- Ship's staff engaged in sampling should ensure that appropriate safety precautions are observed throughout.
- The vessel should be provided with an adequate stock of sample bottles or cans appropriate to the grade and type of cargo expected to be carried. Additionally, the vessel should also have available a means of labelling and sealing any samples obtained, with seals that have identifying numbers or markings.
- Vessel's equipped with "DOPAK" sealed sampling system must carry adequate stock of 500ml amber bottles.
- All samples kept on board must be stowed in accordance with IBC/BCH Code regulations.
- Reference should be made to the US Coast Guard "CHRIS" code to ensure incompatible samples are not stowed adjacent to each other within the sample locker.
- Cargo samples must never be brought into the crew living quarters.

2.0 Sample Requirements

The following is the minimum/standard set of samples that should always be drawn for each parcel/grade of cargo:

2.1 Loading

- One manifold sample
- One composite final tank sample

The manifold sample should be preferably taken against a closed valve. (Sampling to be carried out before product enters ship's line/tank system). However, this can only be done if the terminal can gravitate or has a very slow start-up rate.

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If the loading terminal, for any reason, prevents the ship from carrying out quality control sampling, then an entry to this effect must be made in the ship's log book.

2.2 Discharge

- One composite sample from each tank

Preferably, all samples should be taken, labelled and sealed by the attending cargo surveyor and in the presence of a member of ship's staff. Samples taken and sealed by ship's staff must be verified by an appropriate entry in the ship's logbook.

2.3 Shippers / Consignee Samples

- Although the shipper/consignee samples will only be kept on board between the ports of loading and discharge, these samples must still be included in the cargo sample record.
- The labelling and seal of each sample presented to the vessel must be carefully examined to ensure that it correctly matches the description on the sample receipt presented for signature. Ship's staff should not accept sealed containers said to contain the samples described on the receipt without first verifying the contents.
- At the load port the ship will be presented with a sample receipt document for signature. Under the same receipt, the ship must present a sample receipt to the consignee or his representative and ensure it is endorsed.

3.0 Cargo Sampling Procedures

- To carry out safe and proper sampling, a stainless steel sample adaptor, which attaches to a drain cock, consisting of a small diameter pipe welded to a dust cap, should be used.
- If a ship's line is not fitted with a drain cock on the shore side of a manifold valve, then a spool piece fitted with a drain cock should be used.
- The sampling must be supervised and examined by a responsible officer. Only personnel directly involved with sampling, using appropriate safety equipment, should be allowed in the sampling area.
- Each sample drawn must be clearly labelled with the following:
 - Vessel name
 - Cargo
 - Voyage No.
 - Place of sampling (eg. discharge Liverpool)
 - Date of sample and tank identity
 - Type of sample (eg. foot, composite, etc)
 - Identity of sampler (eg. ship, SGS, etc)

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4.0 Sample Retention

All samples taken from a particular cargo must be kept on board for 6 months from the date of discharge of that particular parcel. The only exceptions to this are:

- a) Propylene Oxide or similar mixture, which must not be retained on board.
- b) Samples of inhibited cargo, which may be disposed of on expiry of the inhibitor certificate.

5.0 Sample Disposal

Before landing any samples for disposal, the vessel must contact the vessel's operators for approval. Samples for routine disposal should only be landed at an approved slop disposal facility and a receipt obtained.

If a problem or claim is known to have arisen with a particular consignment or shipment, any samples which have been drawn or retained by the vessel should only be released to third parties or surveyors acting for the vessel's interests after authorisation has been obtained from the vessel's operators.

For further information, please contact the Managers.....

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