

MEMBER ALERT

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DRI LOADINGS IN TRINIDAD

Local agents have reported a number of recent cases involving the loading of direct reduced iron pellets (DRI) at Point Lisas in Trinidad.

DRI pellets are listed in the IMO “Code of Safe Practice for the Carriage of Solid Cargoes in Bulk” under BC Code number 015. The Code identifies responsibilities of the shipper and the Competent Authority at the point of shipment of this cargo. DRI cargoes require inerting, and temperature monitoring throughout loading, as well as further monitoring of oxygen, hydrogen and temperature levels until discharge.

Reported cases have involved excessive heating of cargo, contamination of ship’s decks and coatings with corrosive dust, crew death and fires during loading. Several cases appear to indicate physical shortcomings in shore facilities, chain of command failure, or inadequate application of safe practices in relation to loading and handling of DRI.

It is recommended that particular caution be exercised when loading DRI pellets. Masters should ensure that all recommendations of the IMO Code are properly carried out and that any deficiencies are reported to owners so that proper steps can be taken prior to vessels sailing.

Vessels affected by DRI dust, either during loading or while performing operations at adjacent facilities, should protect radar and other sensitive equipment. They should also record and protest dust contamination and obtain full advice on requirements for cleaning affected surfaces.

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

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