

ITEM: CARGO HOLD BILGES

FINDING: Backflow noted on bilge(s)



Backflow on bilge with strum box



Backflow - no strum box fitted



Minor backflow



Backflow

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

TECHNICAL DATA: CARGO HOLD BILGES

Resuming SOLAS, regulation 21 (bilge pumping arrangements) for cargo ships we note that:

- An efficient bilge pumping system shall be provided capable of pump from any watertight compartment under all **practical conditions**.
- **Sanitary, ballast and general service pumps** may be accepted as independent power bilge pumps if fitted with the necessary connections to the bilge system.
- The arrangement of the bilge and ballast pumping system shall be such as to **prevent backflow** into the cargo holds.

ISSUE WHEN BILGES SHOW BACKFLOW INTO THE CARGO HOLD

- When water can flow back into the cargo hold this not only puts water sensitive cargo at great risk, it also endangers the ship and its crew
- 10 % of bilges show backflow during our test
- In case of malfunctioning of the main bilge line valve, or human error, this gives a large risk for water ingress into the cargo hold and subsequent damages to cargo and even vessel / crew



WHAT KIND OF FEEDBACK IS EXPECTED?

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Identification of the reason for backflow
- Details of your repairs effected

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Explanations of your detailed, ship-specific and periodic testing procedures and routines