

ITEM: BILGE TESTING PROCEDURES

FINDING: No procedures on board for bilge testing

WHY DO WE INSPECT THIS?

FACTS AND FIGURES

- 26 % of inspected vessels within the ArcelorMittal ship inspection programme don't have procedures on board for testing of the cargo hold bilges
- 14 % of inspected vessels show issues with bilge suction (1 or more bilges inoperative)
- 10 % of inspected vessels show backflow issues on one or more bilges

Bilge problems can cause significant claims on steel cargoes. For more info about suction/backflow issues please refer to the relevant mini manual.

RISK WHEN NO PROCEDURES ARE AVAILABLE

- When the Company does not issue guidelines, the safety of the cargo on these aspects depends on the crew alone. Not all crew have the same level of experience or are equally familiar with their vessel's layout

More info can be found in various P&I publications. Please consult your Club's website for their guidance.

WHAT KIND OF FEEDBACK IS EXPECTED?

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Provision of guidelines to the crew on how to test the cargo hold bilges:
 - Procedures should include both inspection, suction test and backflow test
 - Should be included in ship's PMS to ensure periodicity and follow-up
 - Should be specific to the type of bilges on board the vessel (direct suction vs ejector system)
 - Should ideally be ship-specific, detailing the steps to take on that particular vessel

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Explanation on how you will ensure implementation of these procedures