

SURVEYORS



Surveyors' diary

A review of notable events

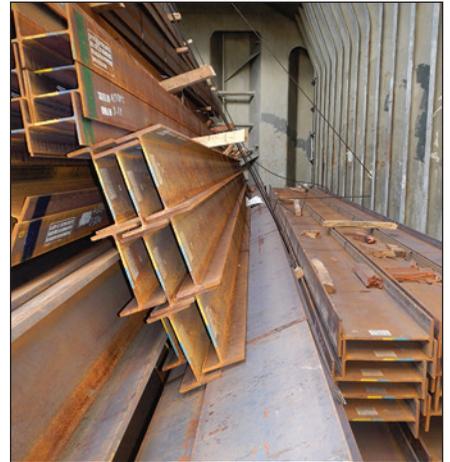
By Tim Ellis
DNP Marine Surveyors

On any given day, a marine surveyor will be inspecting, measuring, weighing and reporting on a wide variety of cargoes and vessels. Surveyor Tim Ellis, offers the following insights for BC Shipping News readers to gain greater understanding of the roles a surveyor can play.



A heavy lift vessel with two 180 MT cranes loading a 33M, 105 MT, moulded carbon-fibre moto yacht with 7,500 H.P. triple water-jets. Divers position the slings beneath her and she sits on steel shores welded to the decks and a further 40 or so 12 MT straps.

Vessels like this one have a value in the tens of millions of dollars. The yacht's metallic coating was said to have cost in the region of a half-million dollars.



Safe handling of bulk steel products

An unstable stow requires stabilizing by insertion of logs alongside the open part of the stow. Once the void space is filled, the steel beams can be discharged and the logs can be removed.

There is a temptation to lose patience with some health and safety considerations when risk can only be reduced at the expense of time and monies – temptation that must be resisted. When stevedores and longshoremen raise concerns, then

Fresh produce – no margin for time delays

Fresh vegetable products loaded in Taiwan were delayed during additional port calls by the ocean-going vessel resulting in some spoilage despite the uninterrupted functioning of the temperature-controlled insulated container. Here is a balsam pear or bitter squash which is liquefying and beyond salvage. Up until quite recently, the internal temperature of these specialist containers was monitored by a temperature and humidity recorder relying on a paper chart. Now, shippers provide single-use disposable recording monitors which can be downloaded as PDFs upon discharge. Here, the marine surveyor is acting for the receiver.





the marine surveyor can audit procedures and provide a means of formal and informal communication between vested interests to ensure that best practices are followed.

Just-in-time deliveries at ports, inexperienced labour, smaller ships' crews, and pressing schedules all compete for valuable time and costly effort requiring alert and responsive programs to quickly assess and report on issues, allowing principals eyes and ears during their decision-making process.

In this case, the marine surveyor is acting for the vessel owner's P&I Club.

Tim Ellis worked for a U.K. shipping and forwarding company in London's East End with postings to Vienna and Hong Kong and as an independent surveyors since February 1977. He can be reached at dnpmarinesurveyors@icloud.com.

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