





Safety & Loss Prevention



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Loss Prevention and Safety Management

Effective loss prevention is of paramount importance in controlling claims exposure and during the course of the year the Managers have continued to produce a range of loss prevention materials.

The most important contribution to loss prevention by far is that which is made by the presence of experienced and well trained Masters, officers and crew onboard Members' vessels. It is well recognised that human error is the most usual cause of incidents giving rise to P&I claims, and the more that can be done to improve the range and quality of onboard training and educational material, the greater the potential benefit in preventing unnecessary personal injury, loss or damage. Consequently, the Managers have continued to work closely with Videotel Marine International in the development of onboard safety training programmes. As outlined in the DVD "Training Matters 2", lessons learned from the Club's extensive claims experience are used to inform and enrich these programmes and thereby strengthen their loss prevention potential. During the course of 2010 new programmes were completed dealing with Offshore Supply Vessel Safety, Emergency Response on Container Ships, the Vessel General Permit (VGP) requirements in the United States of America, Dangerous and Difficult Bulk Cargoes, Personal Safety on Superyachts, and Vapour Emission Control. Work was also completed on updates to existing programmes on the subjects of MARPOL Annex VI (Air Pollution), and Safe

Mooring Operations. Towards the end of the year work was commenced on new programmes dealing with Ballast Water Treatment and Management, and Vessel Watch-keeping and Resource Management. The latter comprises a suite of programmes to replace the Bridge Watch-keeping series, which was the very first material to be produced in association with Videotel 18 years ago. Since then, more than 70 training programmes have been jointly produced on a wide range of subjects.

A simple and effective means of controlling shipboard risk is that which can be provided by the reminders of best practice and correct procedure contained within the Club's loss prevention posters. These cover safe working practices, good seamanship and ship husbandry, and compliance with the collision avoidance regulations. During the year work was completed on a further series of loss prevention posters dealing with personal safety and hygiene in the galley and these will be available for distribution in the second quarter of 2011.

In order to ensure that Members are kept informed of risk management issues affecting their operations, the Managers have continued to issue Risk Alert loss prevention bulletins from time to time. The subjects of these Risk Alerts have been wide-ranging, covering practical issues such as Gangway and Accommodation Ladder Inspection and Maintenance, Ship to Ship Transfer Operations, Evidence Collection from Voyage Data Recorders, and the Dangers of Confined Spaces – the latter prompted by the review of the causes of large crew claims reported in this publication last year. More recently there has been a spate of Risk Alerts published in response to ever widening sanctions regulations.

Safety & Loss Prevention continued

The Club's crew PEME scheme is now well established in the Philippines, Russia and Ukraine and the number of seafarers examined in the Philippines increased by approximately 20% in 2010. However, the number of Members using the scheme remains comparatively low, and probably well below the number who employ seafarers domiciled in the countries in which the scheme currently operates. Since the Managers continue to experience crew illness claims of a type that could have been avoided had an enhanced PEME been undertaken, it seems clear that the considerable loss prevention benefits of the scheme have yet to be fully realised. Consequently the Managers will be encouraging greater use of the scheme in an effort to avoid unnecessary loss in this area of risk.

The most significant loss prevention initiative of the year however is the Club's forthcoming DVD on the subject of piracy. The objective of this production is to encourage more widespread compliance with the Best Management Practice (BMP) Guidelines to Deter Piracy, currently contained within the BMP3 document published by OCIMF that is supported by all major shipping industry bodies, including the International Group. As reported in the section of the Management Highlights dealing with Current Group Issues, the persistence of the Somali piracy menace, the limited naval resources that are available to cover the high risk area and the resulting requirement for robust self-protection measures, highlights the need for an increased level of BMP compliance.

This DVD will be distributed to Members once completed, and this is expected in the third quarter of 2011. As with other Club DVDs such as "A Team Effort" – the guide to casualty investigation and claims handling, and "Collision Course" – a programme on raising awareness of the requirements of the collision avoidance regulations, the production of the Piracy DVD is funded by The Ship Safety Trust. The DVD "Safer Ships, Preventing Loss" that was issued to mark the Club's Centenary in 2009, describes the role of The Ship Safety Trust in supporting the Club's various loss prevention initiatives.

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