

Human Element Maritime Enhancement Tool (H.EL.M.E.T)

**HELMET ELEMENT 10.2**
Item 4 “Cargo Handling Gear”

FINDING: During an onboard HELMET assessment, our HELMET Assessor noticed that two (2) spare wire ropes intended for the cargo cranes were exposed to sea water and weather conditions.

Ref: ISO 4300-1:2017: Cranes-Wire Ropes – Care and Maintenance, Inspection and Discard

In an effort to verify the condition, the Assessor requested evidence from the:

- manufacturer certificates and date of placement on board
- date when wire ropes were stowed at current position
- results of regular inspection
- implemented best practices to prevent corrosion

Although inspection records of the in-use crane wire ropes were available and in good shape, no evidence was presented in connection to the spare wire ropes' condition or certification other than the related delivery note issued some months ago.

IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Wire ropes are very sensitive; careless stowage and protection may result in excessive corrosion.

Spare wire ropes for cranes are significant assets and many times have been proved vital for ship's cargo operations in cases where one of the in-use wire ropes is damaged and should be replaced. Thus, proper stowage, lubrication, protection and their overall condition should be examined, recorded and verified at regular intervals. Missing certificates and improper stowage on the main deck declare inadequate care, lack of monitoring and absence of best shipping practice.

SUGGESTIONS: Spare crane wire ropes should safely be kept in areas which ensure adequate protection such as the forecastle. In cases though that they are kept on the main deck, they should be covered with suitable protection means to avoid exposure to sea-spray and weather conditions. Finally, a standard monitoring and awareness control should be implemented by the ship manager to ensure that the wires are properly protected, stowed, checked and maintained.

Notice: Tip of the month is circulated by P@S monthly in an effort to inform the industry of the red flags raised from the implementation of our onshore and onboard HELMET risk assessment program to meet highest standards, carried out by H.EL.M.E.T. Assessors.

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