

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



Dry - BMS Subject Area 14 ('Maintenance')

- HELMET ELEMENT 8 'Cargo Operations' – Item 4 'Cargo holds and hatch covers condition'
- SOLAS 2020 Edition – Part 1/Ch.1/Reg10 'Surveys of structure, machinery and equipment of cargo ships'
- IMO - MSC.169(79) 'Standards for Owners' Inspection and Maintenance of Bulk Carrier Hatch Covers'
- IMO - MSC/Circ.1071 'Guidelines for Bulk Carrier Hatch Cover Surveys and Owner's Inspections and Maintenance'

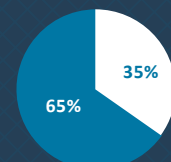
FINDING: During an on-board preparation for Port State Control inspection, our PAS Assessor identified signs of hydraulic oil leakage across the Portside walkway, reaching and passing through the open beams.

Additionally, it was noticed that along the hydraulic system's pipeline, temporary repairs have been made by ship's crew in order to impede the leakages.

IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Poor maintenance of hatch covers and lack of familiarization, may lead to critical risks and incidents such as oil pollution and undesirable delays.

CAUSE OF LARGE CARGO CLAIMS *According to London P&I Club statistics*



■ Hatch Cover related problems ■ Other Causes

SUGGESTIONS

We recommend the following actions:

- Carry out prompt inspections as per PMS in order to identify potential risks and hazards.
- Use recommended by the makers' spare parts to secure proper functionality of the hatch cover.

PRIOR TO ROUGH WEATHER

As a precautionary measure, slightly pressurize the hydraulic system and top up out the piping with oil, in order to minimize the possibility of seawater penetration via loose couplings or seals and prevent possible deformation of the system.

Remember to:

- Carry out inspections of hatch covers, hydraulic system, lines and joints, as per company's PMS, to identify possible hazards.
- Ensure the seals of the jacks/rams are clean and free of cargo residues.
- Monitor the side rolling hydraulic motors due to stresses caused by vessel's list/rolling.
- Ensure that levels of hydraulic oil are properly maintained.
- Open or close one set of hatch covers at a time.

AFTER ROUGH WEATHER

As a precautionary measure, slightly pressurize the hydraulic system and top up out the piping with oil, in order to minimize the possibility of seawater penetration via loose couplings or seals and prevent possible deformation of the system.