CARGO LINES PRESSURE TEST

- **HELMET ELEMENT 8 'Cargo Operations' – Item 1 'Safe cargo operation and cargo securing'**
- **MARPOL Reg.30 'Pumping, piping and discharge arrangement'**
- **ISGOTT 11.3 'Cargo and Ballast System Integrity'**
- **Lloyd's Register – Part 15 Ch.1/Sec.14 'Hydraulic tests on pipes and fittings'**

FINDING: PAS Assessor was performing a HELMET assessment onboard an Oil Tanker. During the pre-arrival pressure test of the ship's cargo lines, a leakage occurred due to deteriorated welding joints.

IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The hydrostatic pressure test is essential for ensuring the piping system's integrity and expansion joint's capability, before the commencement of the cargo operation at port. Leakages due to corrosion or cracks, can lead to a potential fire outbreak, flooding or pollution.

SUGGESTIONS

- Perform a periodical visual examination of the pipes for corrosion or material breakdown, especially in welding points during testing.
- Remember that the lines might be internally corroded and their thickness reduced, in areas where there is a joint or change to direction.
- Confirm that the necessary measuring equipment is calibrated so that you get accurate readings.
- Ensure tightness of the system during hydrostatic pressure test.
- Check the condition of support parts and for excessive vibration levels.
- Build crew awareness and provide additional training, if needed, by highlighting the importance of proper maintenance of the piping system and expansion joints.
- Avoid temporary repairs and timely inform the Company, so that damaged components are scheduled for replacement.

REMEMBER

Before starting work on pipes, fill out the relevant permit by assessing the surrounding conditions.

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