



Risk Assessment Solutions

“Prevent, Don’t Cure”

Circular 03/02/14

Subject: Remote pump control - Important Safety/PSC Issue!

Case: Recently, a bulk carrier faced difficulties when the Port State Control Inspectors while inspecting the forecastle area noticed that the suction pipe of the dewatering system was blocked. Finally, the vessel received the following deficiency:

“Forecastle bilge pumping arrangement found clogged”, code 17

In connection to the above, and in order to assist our clients to prevent similar cases, it should be noted that the dewatering system is subject to SOLAS and should be ready for operation continuously. More specifically, SOLAS 74/78, Ch. XII, reg 13.1 reads:

Regulation 13

Availability of pumping systems

On bulk carriers, the means for draining and pumping ballast tanks forward of the collision bulkhead and bilges of dry spaces any part of which extends forward of the foremost cargo hold shall be capable of being brought into operation from a readily accessible enclosed space, the location of which is accessible from the navigation bridge or propulsion machinery control position without traversing exposed freeboard or superstructure decks. Where pipes serving such tanks or bilges pierce the collision bulkhead, valve operation by means of remotely operated actuators may be accepted, as an alternative to the valve control specified in regulation II-1/11.12, provided that the location of such valve controls complies with this regulation.

Our company is offering a wide range of 'deficiencies', case studies, clarification on the PSC deficiencies through our PSC seminar which is delivered on regular intervals in our office or in-house, at client's request.

To assist further, we offer our clients the service of assessing onboard or through “Distance Assessment” if a vessel is in conformance with the MLC 2006 or PSC requirements or conducting inspections equivalent to PSC/Flag/Rightship inspections to detect and prevent unpleasant occurrences!

We remain at your disposal for more details,

Prevention at Sea