

DON'T CURE PREVENT

ISSUE 11 OCTOBER 2021

A close-up photograph of a hand adjusting a pressure gauge. The gauge is circular with a black face and a silver-colored metal frame. It features a digital display in the center showing the number '35.0'. Above the display, there are labels for 'PRESSURE' and 'TEMPERATURE'. Below the display, there are two 'EX' symbols in hexagons. The gauge is mounted on a dark, metallic surface, likely part of a ship's engine. The background is slightly blurred, showing parts of the ship's structure.

THE PROPER HANDLING
OF GAUGING DEVICES



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CASE

During an onboard Cargo Operation Audit the crew members were performing a loading operation. P@S Assessor observed that during the most critical point of the topping off, one of the three UTI* portable gauging device runs out of battery and the ullage indicator of the second portable gauging device was damaged. As a result, the crew progressed with the topping off by the fixed gauging system and with only one UTI tape. P@S Assessor observed also, that the pre-arrival checklist, as per company's procedures, related to Cargo equipment was completed 24 hours prior to arrival.

*The subject observation comprises a common finding, which may lead to complications during PSC inspections, vetting inspections or class inspections, if crew is dependent only on the fixed gauging system and do not use properly the UTI or **MMC tapes during the loading procedure.*



* UTI : Ullage – Temperature - Interface

** MMC: Marine Moisture Control



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

AS PER OCIMF (SIRE) VIQ 7TH EDITION, CH. 8.22

All UTI tapes should be in good order and regular tests should be recorded.

AS PER OCIMF (SIRE) VIQ EDITION 7 CH. 8.45

UTI tapes must be bonded before being introduced into tanks. UTI tapes which have quick couplings, to connect the unit to the vapor lock will possibly not require bonding wires. However, the internal bonding of such units should be checked every six months in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements.

AS PER OCIMF (SIRE) VIQ EDITION 7 CH. 8.28

Vessel should be equipped by two spare tapes on board.



WHAT WENT WRONG?

- In compliance with Company's procedures for pre-arrival tests.
- Lack of common practice for the proper handling and storage of cargo equipment.



OUR SUGGESTION

We suggest the following actions with the aim to prevent such cases from occurring:

- 🕒 The Company should prepare a specific cargo operation letter for the importance of the proper handling of UTI sounding tape as they are sensitive equipment.
- 🕒 The company should deliver extra training to the Senior Officers in order to understand the real meaning and culture of the checklist's compliance.



BEST PRACTICE

- ✅ Chief Officer should actually check the cargo equipment prior to arrival at Discharging/Loading port as it holds a critical role for the safe conduct of cargo operation.
- ✅ Chief Officer and Safety Assistance Officer should always supervise the ratings for the appropriate storage conditions and cleaning of the portable cargo equipment.

REMEMBER:

- ▶ *For avoidance of critical equipment malfunction, inspection and maintenance on a regular basis is essential.*
- ▶ *Sounding tapes are mandatory for the cross check of true capacity of Cargo Tanks during loading operations*



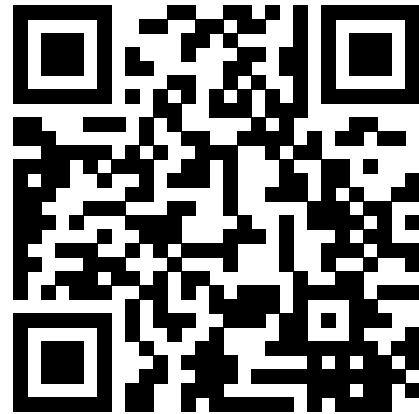
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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Q&A



SPOT THE DEFICIENCY



 **PREVENTION AT SEA**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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