

DON'T CURE PREVENT

ISSUE 17 OCTOBER 2022



BALLAST AIR VENT



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CASE

While the PAS Assessor was conducting a Cargo & Ballast Audit, it was requested from the Chief Officer to open one ballast air vent to confirm the condition of the closing devices. It was observed that two of the ballast air vent heads were found defective. The PAS Assessor noticed that the guide pin at the upper end was broken due to corrosion. In addition, due to internal corrosion of the housing, the rubber seat was dislodged and the float disc was stuck.

The subject observation is critical for the vessel's reserve buoyancy and may cause possible complications during PSC inspections, vetting inspections or class surveys.



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

AS PER IACS P3.2.6

An automatic closing device is to:

- ⦿ Prevent the free entry of water into the tanks.
- ⦿ Allow the passage of air or liquid to prevent excessive pressure or vacuum coming on the tank.

AS PER VIQ 7TH EDITION, CH.11.7

Vent heads should be regularly dismantled to prove that the closing device which prevents the ingress of water is also in good condition and operating correctly.

AS PER HELMET, ELEMENT 9 'STRUCTURAL CONDITION & MAINTENANCE', ITEM 3

Ship's air vents are frequently monitored / inspected and most importantly the person in charge should be aware of the importance of maintaining them in good condition.



WHAT WENT WRONG?

- ❌ Non-compliance with Company's procedures for the proper inspection and maintenance of closing devices in the ballast vent heads.
- ❌ Lack of understanding of the importance and proper maintenance of deck equipment.
- ❌ Lack of knowledge of applicable regulations.
- ❌ Inadequate motivation and supervision.
- ❌ Lack of good seamanship.
- ❌ Importance of hidden risks have not been emphasized.



OUR SUGGESTION

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

- 🕒 Highlight the vital importance of proper maintenance of the closing devices in the ballast vent heads.
- 🕒 Follow Company's procedures regarding inspection and maintenance of ballast air vent heads.
- 🕒 Ensure proper monitoring of such equipment during deck inspection.
- 🕒 Provide extra training to the Senior Officers for understanding the reason of air vents existence and improving safety behavior.



BEST PRACTICE

- ✅ Follow the Company's inspection and maintenance program.
- ✅ Ensure awareness of the importance of such equipment.
- ✅ Pay attention to air pipes and air vent heads located in the fore deck due to green seas and ship's movement.
- ✅ Check the general condition of the float / ball / disc / guiding pin / gasket / screens.

REMEMBER:

- ▶ A well-maintained air vent can prevent unexpected accidents.
- ▶ Each vent head is essential for the safety on board.

 **PREVENTION AT SEA**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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