



EAGLE OCEAN MARINE

CIRCULAR

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SILVER NITRATE TESTING OF CARGO HOLDS FOR CARRIAGE OF STEEL CARGOES

Silver nitrate testing for the presence of sodium chloride (salt) in cargo holds prior to loading is an important practice to help prevent claims from damage to steel cargoes. As part of the normal pre-load survey for transporting steel cargoes, vessel cargo hold tank tops, adjacent sides, and end plating, should be tested prior to loading for the presence of salt by using a silver nitrate solution.

Due to the current “zero-COVID” policy in the People’s Republic of China, direct access to vessels by EOM-approved surveyors has been restricted in most ports. In these instances, vessel crews are encouraged to perform such tests prior to loading steel cargo. This will allow the crew to determine if there are cargo hold locations that should be cleaned further or covered in tarpaulins to prevent contact between sodium chloride affected areas and the steel cargoes.

Insureds should consider:

1. ensuring that there is an adequate supply of silver nitrate available on board;
2. establishing procedures to guide the crew as to key locations that should be tested in the cargo holds; and
3. establishing guidance as to what actions should be taken in the event of positive silver nitrate test results.

EOM recommends that Insureds take note of this information and be guided accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Dorothea Ioannou, CEO
Eagle Ocean Agencies, Inc.

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