



The HFW Client Briefing:

January 2010

Shipping & Logistics

Port/Flag State Control – Focused Inspection Campaign

Introduction

On 6 January 2010, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) released Maritime Notice 2/2010 confirming its intention to undertake a Focused Inspection Campaign (FIC) of container securing equipment on vessels calling at Australian ports which are engaged in the loading and security of cargo containers. The purpose of the FIC is to ensure that the obligations of Masters under regulation 5 to chapter VI of SOLAS are being fulfilled in relation to safe stowage and appropriate securing of cargo.

The duration & scope of inspection

The FIC will run for a period of three months commencing on 1 February 2010 and concluding on 30 April 2010. The AMSA inspections will normally be conducted in conjunction with port/flag State control inspections, although the Notice also points out that AMSA surveyors may undertake a random inspection of only the container securing equipment during the FIC. The Notice indicates that the FIC will be primarily focused on both fixed and portable container securing equipment, such as twist locks, lashing bars, lashing anchors and securing points.

Specifically, the FIC will be conducted on all vessels to which the Navigation Act 1912 (the "Navigation Act") applies, including foreign and Australian-flagged vessels, and will also include securing arrangements on vessels of less than 500GT.

Deficiencies

If any deficiencies are found during the FIC, AMSA will require the Master 'to carry out all necessary rectification work' prior to departure or in extreme cases, the AMSA surveyor may detain the vessel under the Navigation Act.

Recommendation

As a result of the FIC, we would strongly recommend that owners and operators of container vessels calling at Australian ports between 1 February and 30 April 2010 take immediate steps to check all fixed and portable container securing equipment to ensure that they are in good order and condition and Class approved. Failure to do so may result in unwanted delays prior to departure.

Contacts

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