

NOTICE TO AGENTS, BERTH AND SHIP OPERATORS No.3 of 2016

CONFIRMATION OF STABILITY

The Port of London Authority would like to highlight to Masters, Agents, Berth and Ship Operators operating within the port limits, the recent Marine Accident Investigation Branch report into the listing, flooding and grounding of HOEGH OSAKA at Bramble Bank in the Solent on 3rd January 2015.

There are a number of safety recommendations which should be noted by all operators within the Port of London. Following recent discussions by our Navigational Management Team, we have instructed our Pilots to ask the Masters of all ships to confirm the vessel has adequate stability for its intended voyage, and that the vessel is in all respects ready to proceed to sea, prior to sailing from the berth.

This will be conducted as part of the Pilot / Master exchange and should the Pilot not feel confident in the information provided, this may lead to delays in sailing until such a time that the Master has provided confirmation of the stability of the vessel.

A copy of the MAIB Safety Flyer can be found attached to this Notice to Agents, Berth and Ship Operators.

To view the full MAIB Report, please download it from: https://assets.digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk/media/56e9a7afe5274a14d9000000/MAIBInvReport6_2016.pdf

13th May 2016

Port of London Authority
London River House
Royal Pier Road
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG

BOB BAKER
CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER



Owners, Agents and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

TO RECEIVE FUTURE NOTICES TO MARINERS BY E-MAIL,
PLEASE REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE www.pla.co.uk

Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich.



SAFETY FLYER

Hoegh Osaka: Listing, flooding and grounding on 3 January 2015



Hoegh Osaka

Narrative

At 2109 (UTC) on 3 January 2015, the pure car and truck carrier (PCTC) *Hoegh Osaka* was departing Southampton, UK, and turning to port around the Bramble Bank when the vessel developed a significant starboard list. As the list increased in excess of 40° the ship lost steerage and propulsion, and subsequently drifted aground on Bramble Bank. A cargo shift as the vessel listed resulted in breaches to the hull and consequent flooding. All crew were safely evacuated from the ship and surrounding waters. There was no resulting pollution, and the ship was later successfully salvaged.

Hoegh Osaka was employed to move vehicles between Europe and the Middle East. European ports were usually visited in the order Bremerhaven, Hamburg and, finally, Southampton; fuel was normally embarked in Hamburg. On this occasion, due to New Year holidays, the cycle was changed with Southampton being the first European port visited, but the cargo loading plan was not adjusted.

Findings

Stability modelling and analysis following the accident show that *Hoegh Osaka* heeled heavily to starboard while turning as a result of having departed port with inadequate stability. Cargo distribution was such that the upper vehicle decks were full while the lower vehicle decks were lightly loaded. *Hoegh Osaka* was low on bunker fuel oil, which was stored low down in the ship, and the ship's overall vertical centre of gravity (VCG) was relatively high.

Hoegh Osaka's inadequate stability had not been identified prior to departure. The figures in the pre-stowage plan were significantly different to the final cargo tally; the estimated weight of many items of cargo was less than their actual weight; and no allowance was made for the VCG of the cargo loaded being above deck level. Finally, it was onboard practice to alter the ballast tank quantity readings on the loading computer so its output would match the observed draught readings. It would have been possible to embark additional ballast prior to departure to reduce the ship's VCG as necessary, but as the shortcoming in stability had not been identified this was not done.

Witness and anecdotal evidence, and the findings of other investigations, suggest that it is a general practice in the car carrier industry for ships to sail before an accurate departure stability condition has been calculated, on the assumption that their stability condition is safe.

Safety Lessons

- Assessing a ship has adequate stability for its intended voyage on completion of cargo operations and before it sails is a fundamental principle of seamanship that must not be neglected. Sufficient time must be made before departure for an accurate stability calculation to be completed.
- A loading computer is an effective and useful tool for the safe running of a ship. However, its output can only be as accurate as the information entered into it.
- The master has ultimate responsibility for the safety of his/her ship. This responsibility cannot be delegated to shore-based managers or charterers' representatives.

This flyer and the MAIB's investigation report, which identifies a number of further contributing factors to the accident, are posted on our website: www.gov.uk/maib

For all enquiries:

Marine Accident Investigation Branch
First Floor, Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1GH

Email: maib@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 023 8039 5500