

## **Casualty Circular No. 22 of 2009**

### **(Regulatory/Guidance/Information)**

**NO:11-NT(15)/2008**

**Dated: 04.08.2009**

**Subject: Collision between General Cargo ship and Bulk carrier in Indian waters.**

#### **NARRATIVE**

A General Cargo ship, flag - foreign, GRT- 14357, age - 6 years, was out bound and a Bulk Carrier, flag- Indian, GRT- 15575, age - 32 years, was inbound with pilot on board, while in the harbor channel collided at 1728 hrs. on 28.01.2008, close to the channel buoy. The pilot of both the vessels did not contact each other for confirming the course of action to be taken under the Collision Regulation. The General cargo vessel's pilot misunderstood, the bulk carrier for another inbound vessel. In confusion, the collision between the two vessel occurred. Both the vessels suffered damage in the fore part of the vessel. There were no loss of life or pollution.

#### **OBSERVATIONS/ANALYSISES**

- The Port Control Station remained silent and failed to intervene during the close quarter situation.
- The pilot of General Cargo ship misunderstood the identity of another vessel with whom it was agreed to pass starboard to starboard.
- The pilot of General Cargo ship was using walkie-talkies which did not have channel 10, the channel used only for berthing and unberthing operations.
- The pilot of General Cargo ship was under contract with the port and not holding Certificate of Competency approved by the Maritime Administration.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS/LESSONS LEARNT**

- Port Signal Station should be re-located as the channel and the berths cannot be seen from its present location.

- Dedicated qualified persons for communication and monitoring of VHF should be employed by the Port Authority.
- The port should develop Vessel's Traffic Services (VTS) to enhance Maritime Safety during navigation.
- The Master and Navigating Officer should understand the significance and application of Rule No. 6 - Safe speed & Rule No. 9 - Narrow Channel.
- The Port should develop standard policy for the appointment of Pilots with respect to their qualification, experience in terms of employment in consultation with the Flag Administration.

**Sd/-**

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