

Casualty Circular No. 28 of 2009 **(Regulatory/Guidance/Information)**

NO:9-NT(11/2009

Dated: 07.09.2009

Subject: Sinking of Mechanized Sailing Vessel at High seas on 06.6.2009

NARRATIVE

An Indian Mechanized Sailing Vessel, built in 1991, GRT 210MT sailed out from a foreign port in Arabian Gulf with a cargo of Trucks and Jeeps and other merchandise on 25.5.2009 for island port in Arabian sea. The weather and sea condition at the time of departure was favorable and stable. The vessel had smooth sailing at high seas till 4th June, 2009. On 04.06.2009, evening weather and sea conditions started to become hostile. On the following day i.e. 5th /6th June, 2009 weather and sea conditions became rough to very rough resulting in breaking of seas on deck. Sea water started to enter into the Engine room through the deck openings. The crew of the vessel immediately pumped out water by using the bilge pump. Around 1500 hrs. the ingress of the water into the vessel increased. The ship's crew suspected the flooding from the ship side plank which might have broken due to heavy sea and swell. The ship's crew used all available pumps with them i.e. 12 Nos. portable pumps. These efforts proved un-successful. In view of worsening situation on board, the Tindal decided to abandon the ship on 06.06.2009 at 1830 hrs. Ship's crew donned life jackets and launched all life saving appliances. All the 11 crew members were rescued by the nearby Mechanized sailing vessel. There was no loss of life or injury to any one.

OBSERVATIONS/ANALYSES

- The vessel was performing International Voyage between Arabian Gulf and island in the Arabian sea.
- The vessel had general cargo in break bulk form i.e. 18 Nos. of Jeeps/Trucks & other merchandise.
- Vessel's bilge pumping arrangement was not adequate to check progressive flooding.
- The vessel's crew did not maintain any record pertaining to normal/emergency operations
- The vessel's Certificate of Inspection stipulated restriction on Trading Limits i.e. restricted to fair season.

RECOMMENDATIONS/LESSONS LEARNT

- The owner/Tindal of the vessel should obtain weather forecast warning for the intended voyage prior to departure
- The owner/Tindal shall comply with the trading restrictions specified in the Certificate of Inspection
- The Tindal shall ensure to secure the unitized cargo properly prior to commencement of voyage
- The owner/Tindal shall ensure that the vessel's wooden hull and auxiliary machinery including the pumping out arrangements from all compartment of the vessel are maintained as per the Flag State requirements
- The owner shall ensure that the Tindal and crew are given basic training on safety, emergency response and containment of oil pollution
- The owner shall ensure that the Tindal/responsible crew is well aware of maintaining log keeping and other records reflecting on the various activities undertaking during the voyage.

Sd/-

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