



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 717 of 5th February 2022

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Hatch cover damage
Reference	CONARINA Instruction to Surveyor

Hatch cover damage

A small bulk carrier had 4 cargo holds and she is full loaded. The vessel had side rolling cargo hatch covers. The vessel encountered heavy weather which caused the vessel to pitch and roll heavily. The cargo hatch covers were washed over by seawater.

All hatch covers were opened when the vessel was at anchor and waiting for available berth. This is to ensure the vessel was gas free since fumigation had been carried out in all cargo holds at the loading port.

When removing the cargo hatch covers it was found that cargo in holds 1 to 4 had been damaged by water. Most of the water-damaged cargo was below the middle cross joint of the hatch covers and below the aft hatch coaming's corners and below the hatch coaming's corners.

The surveyor has carried out an inspection and found the following hatch cover parts to be in poor condition:

- Hatch cover panels
- Hatch coamings
- Water drain channels
- Non-return valves
- Quick cleats
- Rubber gaskets

Recommendations:

1. Before leaving port, the crew should inspect the hatch covers to ensure they are in a weathertight condition.
2. Ensure that gaskets and coaming are in good condition

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3. It is important that records are kept about what maintenance and service has been completed in the Planned Maintenance System (PMS)
4. The crew can ensure that paint is intact, which will give good protection against corrosion. Corrosion on the hatch cover might cause a hole in the steel construction.
5. It is essential that cargo hatch covers are inspected and tested at regular intervals to ensure that the weathertight integrity is maintained and that the vessel is in a cargo worthy and seaworthy condition.

REFERENCES:

- CONARINA Instruction

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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