



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 727 of 7th April 2022

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Inaccurate Stability resulted in damage
Reference	SOLAS and Load Line

Inaccurate Stability resulted in damage

One cargo ship capsized near Port of Brunswick. The capsizing was caused by incorrect calculations about the vessel's stability.

The ship departed the dock in Brunswick shortly after midnite and had traveled for only 23 min. when started to list.

After the distress call, first response began arriving shortly with vessels from Coast Gard and helicopter.

The ship was carrying 4,100 vehicles and 24 crew members when it overturned while traveling through St. Simons Sound. Ultimately fire, flooding and saltwater corrosion meant the ship was declared a total loss.

During the investigation it was found that:

Two watertight doors has been left open, which caused the vessel to flood after capsized.

Th probable cause of the capsizing was chief officer's mistake while entering ballast quantities into the stability calculation program. That meant the vessel had less stability than the chief officer calculated.

The operator of the ship had no procedures to verify the chief officer's calculations, so the operator and master of thr ship didn't know the ship was sailing without meeting stability requirements.

Recommendations

- 1.The operator of the vessel to create procedures for verifying stability calculations before a vessel leaves the port.
2. Shipping company to verify the crew follows a departure checklist regarding the closing of watertight doors. No one on the bridge ensured that the doors were closed before departure from the port.

CONARINA Head Office

6505 Blue Lagoon Dr. Suite 455

Miami, Fl., 33126

Tel: 1 (786) 558 5288,

Fax: 1 (786) 325 0200,

joel@conarinagroup.com



REFERENCES:

- CONARINA Instructions- Lesson Learned.

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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6505 Blue Lagoon Dr. Suite 455

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Fax: 1 (786) 325 0200,

Joel@conarinagroup.com