

Loss of Sailing vessel due to fire

Casualty Circular No. 3 of 2003

F.No.9 NT(16)/2001
11th July 2003

Dated

Sub: Loss of sailing vessel due to fire.

1. Naration :

1.1 A mechanized sailing vessel built in 1999 from Dubai for a Mundra Port in India in the month of June. The vessel was loaded with cargo of 350 Tonnes of Tar. After two days sailing a fire was observed in the engine room which was so spontaneous and enormous that it engulfed the entire engine room and accommodation within 5 to 10 minutes. One crew member lost his life whereas remaining 14 crew members managed to abandoned the ship in the rescue boat.

1.2 The boat drifted for almost 5 days and was finally found on the coast line of a neighboring country.

1.3 The exact cause of the fire could not be determined. However, the cargo of Tar which was loaded in the hold which was located abreast of the forward bulkhead of the engine room, may have substantially aided in accelerating the fire and thereby giving very little time to respond for fire fighting by the crew.

2. LESSONS LEARNED :

2.1 It is recommended that all crew members undergo life saving, fire fighting and survival at sea courses prior to joining ships.

2.2. Owners of sailing vessels are encouraged to fit an EPIRB on their ships so as to facilitate effective search and rescue in case of emergencies.

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