



STEAMSHIP MUTUAL

Cargoworthiness (Dry Cargo)

The surveyor should pay particular attention to the following items when inspecting the vessel's cargo arrangements:-

- Condition of main and tween deck hatch covers and securing arrangements, (compression bars, sealing rubbers, cleats and securing dogs)
- Type and condition of hold ventilators
- Condition of booby hatches, manhole covers and sealing arrangements.
- Condition of bulkheads and tank tops.
- Type and condition of hold coatings.
- Condition of air and sounding pipes and protection arrangements.
- Type and condition of spar and tanktop ceiling.
- Cleanliness of bilges and other areas which might trap water or residues of previous cargoes causing future cargo contamination problems.

As well as inspecting the vessel's cargo arrangements as described above, the surveyor should conduct a series of tests to establish the watertight integrity of the cargo holds. The extent and sequence of testing to be carried out will depend on such factors as the vessel's condition and schedule, whether or not the cargo and ballast tanks are empty and safe for entry and whether the vessel is loading or discharging cargo, and any specific concerns the surveyor may have. The surveyor should agree a programme with the ship's staff that will allow him to conduct as many of the following and any other tests that are practicable and appropriate:

- Mechanical hatch covers should be opened and closed to ensure correct operation.
- Hatch covers should be battened down, and tested by use of either ultrasonic equipment, hose or chalk to ensure watertight integrity. If fitted, hold ventilators, access hatches and water tight doors should be included in the test.
- All water ballast tanks adjacent to cargo holds should be pressed up until they overflow on deck.
- The bilge suction should be tested.
- The bilge main should be pressure tested with only the screw down non-return valve closed.

On completion of the above tests the holds should be closely examined for leakage from the hatch covers, bulkheads, tanktops, air pipes, sounding pipes and bilge pipes/valves.