



## Fitness for cargo

The Fitness for Cargo Programme covers all of the vessel's major areas, equipment and documentation that are considered to be important for shipping the cargo without damage.

The classification societies' overall objective is to ensure the safe operation of the ship in all sea and weather conditions. As long as the seaworthiness of the ship is ensured, class pays limited attention to the 'well-being' of water-sensitive cargo.

The ingress of a small amount of seawater into the cargo hold does not usually represent any risk to the safety of the ship, but even small amounts of water may do extensive damage to cargoes that are sensitive to seawater, e.g. grain, fertilizer, steel and paper cargoes. Failures of equipment such as de-humidifiers and temperature controls for the cargo holds may also cause damage to the cargo.

DNV offers an additional service, the 'Fitness for Cargo Programme', that focuses on cargo safety. Although the programme is designed for general cargo and bulk carriers that are more than 15 years old and less than 5 000 GT, it is also suitable for younger and larger tonnage.

The programme aims at:

- Providing the ship owners with a document verifying that the vessel is in good condition with respect to cargo safety
- Helping to reduce the number of cargo claims for older tonnage
- Helping to reduce the cargo insurance premium for well maintained older tonnage

During inspection, the fitness for cargo is assessed using the following methods:

- Visual inspection
- Function testing
- Ultrasonic tightness testing
- Review of documentation

Following a successful inspection, a report documenting the condition and a Fitness for Cargo statement are issued. This proves that the vessel is very suitable for carrying water-sensitive cargo.

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DNV surveyor checking hatch cover tightness.