

Dear Sirs,

We are currently involved in a matter where bulk coal was loaded onto a vessel at the Matola Coal terminal, Maputo Mozambique, and during the course of loading, the coal that had been loaded into one hold spontaneously combusted. Fortunately the then smouldering cargo was detected by the ship's crew before the loading was completed and all the cargo from the hold was subsequently discharged from the vessel. During the course of discharge of the suspect coal temperatures far in excess of the IMO's criteria of 55 degrees Centigrade were recorded.

During the course of our investigations it was observed that at least one shore dump site was burning with open flames clearly visible and we believe that prior to this incident several other shore dump sites were observed to be smouldering.

The above is the first such reported incident from this terminal in at least 5 years and it seems that the situation may have occurred due to unseasonably high winds coupled with several months storage time of some of the cargo stored at the terminal.

We would recommend that ships crews be particularly vigilant during the loading of bulk coal at Maputo and to ensure that all of the requirements of the BC Code are followed.

Please would you alert your loss prevention department and members accordingly.

Best regards,

Alan Reid

P&I Associates (Pty) Ltd
9th Floor, Rennie House
41 Margaret Mncadi Avenue,
Durban, 4000
South Africa

E-Mail: reida@pandi.co.za

Website: www.pandi.co.za

Phone: +27 31 368 5050

Fax: +27 31 332 4455

Cell: +27 83 250 3392