

JAPAN P&I NEWS

No.766-15/9/7

To the Members

Dear Sirs,

Tianjin, China – MARAD Advisory regarding Tianjin explosions and possible contamination

The United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) has issued Advisory 2015-02 with regard to possible contamination by hazardous materials due to explosions in Tianjin, China.

Following the tragic explosions on 12 and 15 August 2015, there are concerns about the possible existence of potentially hazardous ash, debris or residues on vessels or cargo. A comprehensive list of chemicals involved in the Tianjin incident is not yet available, but several hazardous chemicals are reported to have been in the main warehouse, including sodium cyanide (UN1689) and calcium carbide (UN1402). Given the substantial size of the explosions and the suspected hazardous chemicals involved, ships and cargo in port at or near the times of the explosions may have been exposed to potentially hazardous dust, ash, or debris.

In the circumstances, the USCG and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are monitoring all U.S. bound cargo and vessel traffic which was in the port of Tianjin on or after 12 August 2015, and vessels are requested to report to the nearest USCG Captain of the Port as soon as possible any suspected hazardous conditions, illnesses, or unknown substances or residues.

According to Lamorte Burns & Co., Inc., our correspondents in the US, the USCG and CBP do not yet have a protocol in place for testing samples of residue taken from cargo, ship's holds or containers. However, the authorities expect that vessels will on arrival in the US report any contamination of cargo or crew illness etc. that they may encounter on the voyage there. When considering an appropriate response the USCG and CBP will also consider the proximate location of the cargo to the warehouse that exploded. In this respect, Lamorte Burns & Co., Inc. has recommended that during loading operations the crew check the cargo closely for any unusual dust, debris or other contamination that may be present on the cargo, as well as closely monitoring the health of crewmembers who come into contact with the cargo during loading operations and the subsequent voyage. The US Authorities should be advised as early as possible prior to arriving in US waters about any such unusual contamination or crew illness. The Master should be prepared to answer questions from the US authorities upon arrival, including on the weather conditions at the time of loading, the subject cargo and measures taken by the vessel to ensure the cargo was not contaminated.

Yours faithfully,

The Japan Ship Owners' Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association

Attachment: MARAD Advisory 2015-02



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MARAD ADVISORY 2015-02

Advisory #:	2015-02
Date Issued:	Aug 28, 2015
Audience:	ALL OPERATORS OF U.S. FLAG, EFFECTIVE U.S. CONTROLLED VESSELS, U.S. MERCHANT MARINERS, AND OTHER MARITIME INTERESTS
Subject:	TIANJIN, CHINA EXPLOSIONS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION

1. THIS ADVISORY FORWARDS INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD (USCG) REGARDING ASSESSING POTENTIAL CONTAMINATION RISKS FROM THE TIANJIN PORT COMPLEX EXPLOSIONS AND REITERATES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF VESSEL AND FACILITY AGENTS, OWNERS, MASTERS, AND OPERATORS TO IMMEDIATELY REPORT POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD. U.S.-FLAG OPERATORS ARE REQUESTED TO FORWARD THIS ADVISORY TO THEIR SHIPS BY THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS MEANS.
2. MARAD Advisories are PUBLISHED ON THE MARAD WEB SITE AT www.marad.dot.gov/newsroom/ADVISORY and ON the Maritime Safety Information web site AT msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal. SELECT BROADCAST WARNINGS, scroll down TO SEARCH BOX AND Select MARAD Advisories.
3. THE USCG AND CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION ARE MONITORING VESSEL TRAFFIC AND CARGO DEPARTING THE TIANJIN PORT COMPLEX FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC EXPLOSIONS ON AUG 12TH AND 15TH, 2015, DUE TO CONCERNS THAT THERE MAY BE POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS ASH, DEBRIS, OR RESIDUES ON VESSELS OR CARGO BOUND FOR U.S. PORTS. VESSELS IMPACTED BY THE TIANJIN PORT COMPLEX EXPLOSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CALL ON U.S. PORTS OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF VESSELS WITH CONFIRMED HAZARDOUS DEBRIS OR RESIDUES ABOARD, HOWEVER U.S. COMPANIES ARE LOOKING FOR REASSURANCES REGARDING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THOSE WHO HANDLE SHIPPING CONTAINERS ACROSS THE SUPPLY CHAIN. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS WORKING WITH LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL PORT AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO COORDINATE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY ANY POTENTIAL RISKS ON INBOUND VESSELS AND CARGO TO HELP ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS BULLETIN, AN IMPACTED VESSEL IS ANY VESSEL THAT WAS IN THE TIANJIN PORT COMPLEX, OR THAT HAS LOADED CARGO OR CONTAINERS THAT WERE IN THE TIANJIN PORT COMPLEX AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST EXPLOSION ON AUG 12TH

THROUGH AUG 15TH.

4. ANY SUSPECTED HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS, ILLNESSES, OR UNKNOWN SUBSTANCES OR RESIDUES SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE NEAREST USCG CAPTAIN OF THE PORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AN ILL PERSON ABOARD OR AN UNKNOWN SUBSTANCE OR HAZARDOUS ASH, DEBRIS, OR RESIDUE MAY BE INDICATIVE OF A HAZARDOUS CONDITION AND SHOULD BE REPORTED.
5. ADDITIONAL INFO IS AVAILABLE IN USCG MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 007/15 AVAILABLE AT <HTTPS://WWW.USCG.MIL/MSIB/>
6. THIS ADVISORY IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
7. QUESTIONS REGARDING MSIB 007/15, SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE USCG OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL VESSEL COMPLIANCE AT 202-372-1251 OR PORTSTATECONTROL@USCG.MIL.

August 28, 2015

By [Quintin Ellis](#)

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