ottavio novella spa TANKERS MANAGERS
Member of CISQ Federation RINA CERTIFIED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ISO 14001 BS OHSAS 18001
calisa spa OIL / CHEM TANKERS OWNERS
ciane spa BUNKER TANKER OWNERS

ON's Bell

NEWS ON THE WAY!

Date: 30/11/2025
Number: 172

"DECEMBER LIGHTS: CLOSING THE YEAR WITH SAFETY AND SPIRIT"

As 2025 comes to an end, December brings a moment of reflection — a chance to look back on the challenges we faced, the lessons we learned, and the progress we achieved together.
Across oceans and time zones, every member of the NOVELLA team has contributed to a year marked by resilience, professionalism, and dedication.

This month carries a special warmth: the holiday spirit that reaches even the farthest seas. Whether at home or onboard during the festive season, we navigate these last weeks with a shared commitment — to finish the year safely, strongly, and united.

Let's embrace this final stretch with focus and optimism, carrying forward the values that guide us: teamwork, integrity, and safety in every operation.

Wishing all NOVELLA crews a safe, peaceful, and joyful Christmas season!

"SAFETY IN COLD WEATHER OPERATIONS"

Winter conditions introduce unique hazards across all shipboard operations.
Icing on decks, low temperatures affecting machinery, reduced visibility, and crew fatigue from cold exposure can increase risks significantly.

To ensure safe winter navigation and operations:

- **Monitor deck and superstructure icing and remove accumulations promptly.**
- **Check critical systems regularly, including heating coils, air compressors, and deck equipment susceptible to freezing.**
- **Plan engine adjustments in advance, as cold seawater intake may impact lubrication and fuel viscosity.**
- **Increase bridge and deck vigilance during snowfall, fog, and freezing spray.**
- **Implement cold-weather PPE, including layered clothing, gloves with grip, thermal boots, and anti-slip accessories.**

Cold weather doesn't just affect the ship — it affects people. Reduced dexterity, slower reaction times, and fatigue are common.
Preparation, proper gear, and heightened awareness ensure operations remain safe even in the harshest winter conditions.

Winter safety begins with preparation — not reaction

"NAVIGATING HIGH-RISK WINTER ROUTES"

Winter brings challenging conditions to several key maritime routes — especially the North Atlantic, Baltic Sea, North Sea, and Black Sea. Strong winds, long swells, freezing temperatures, and rapidly changing weather patterns require enhanced vigilance and strategic planning.

Key considerations include:

ROUTE-SPECIFIC RISKS

- **North Atlantic: Long-period swells, severe gales, icebergs in northern sectors.**
- **Baltic Sea: Ice formation, shallow waters, restricted pilotage routes, traffic density.**
- **North Sea: Heavy traffic, fog banks, strong tidal streams.**
- **Black Sea: Sudden storms, gusty winds, and reduced visibility in winter months.**

SAFE NAVIGATION MEASURES

- **Conduct detailed voyage planning with seasonal warnings and weather routing.**
- **Maintain close coordination with VTS and coastal authorities.**
- **Reinforce Bridge Resource Management, especially during low visibility and heavy weather.**
- **Ensure redundant monitoring with both ECDIS units and radar, using manual plotting when needed.**
- **Review emergency steering and propulsion procedures for rough sea contingencies.**

With awareness and proper planning, even high-risk winter routes can be navigated safely and efficiently.

The best defense at sea is preparation — especially in winter waters.

"YEAR-END COMPLIANCE & SAFETY READINESS"

As the year closes, December is the ideal moment to ensure full compliance with international regulations and company standards.
A structured end-of-year review supports safe operations and prepares vessels for inspections early in the new year.

KEY YEAR-END FOCUS AREAS

- **MARPOL checks: IOPP, oil record accuracy, waste disposal records, SOPEP equipment inventory.**
- **Safety equipment: Lifeboats, fire pumps, extinguishers, EEBDs, and emergency escape routes.**
- **Navigation and bridge systems: ECDIS updates, passage plan templates, GMDSS functionality.**
- **Deck & engine routines: Mooring equipment inspection, cargo gear readiness, machinery log verification.**
- **Training & drills: Review frequency of drills, bridge/engine teamwork sessions, and refresher topics.**

Year-end compliance is not just about passing inspections — it's about ensuring the safety and readiness of the crew and vessel for the coming year.

A well-prepared ship today is a safer ship tomorrow.

"STAYING CONNECTED AT SEA DURING THE HOLIDAYS"

For many seafarers, December is one of the most emotionally challenging months.
Distance from family, short daylight hours, and high workload can affect morale.
That's why promoting connection, balance, and emotional well-being is even more important at this time of year.

WAYS TO SUPPORT CREW WELLBEING IN DECEMBER

- **Encourage moments of togetherness: shared meals, small celebrations, and cultural exchanges between crew members.**
- **Use communication opportunities: ensure everyone has fair access to email/video calls to connect with family.**
- **Create a positive onboard atmosphere: decorations, music, or simple activities help break routine.**
- **Promote mental and physical health: encourage rest periods, fresh air, light exercise, and open communication.**
- **Support those who may feel isolated: a conversation or a gesture can make a big difference.**

Even far from home, a strong and supportive crew can make the holiday season meaningful.
Onboard unity becomes the bridge that connects hearts across oceans.

"A connected crew is a resilient crew — especially during the holidays."

SAFETY CORNER

DELAYED DELIVERY OF STORES AND CRITICAL CONSUMABLES

Event Description

A recurring issue was once again observed regarding delays and inconsistencies in the delivery of spares, stores, and consumables to the vessel. This situation has affected several Company vessels in the past — including *Zefirea* and *Allegra* during previous Masters' contracts — and continues to appear regardless of trading area or port of call.

In this instance, essential items such as laundry detergent and soap were not received as scheduled, alongside operational consumables required for the safe and efficient performance of daily duties. Although the situation did not lead to an immediate interruption of operations, it created unnecessary strain on crew welfare and routine tasks.

Actions Taken

- The delay was reported to the office and procurement team for follow-up with the supplier/agent.
- Available stock was reassessed, and temporary measures were implemented to prioritize essential needs.
- The Master and Chief Engineer updated the vessel's requisition list and highlighted urgent items.

A coordination check was initiated to review communication flow between vessel, agent, and suppliers to prevent further discrepancies.

Lessons Learned

Reliable and timely delivery of consumables and operational stores is fundamental for both crew welfare and shipboard efficiency. Even basic items, when unavailable, can impact hygiene, morale, and operational readiness. Systematic communication, accurate tracking, and early follow-up are essential to avoid repeated occurrences.

Key Takeaway

Essential supplies are not optional — timely delivery supports safety, wellbeing, and effective operations.

SAFETY CORNER

IMPROPERLY SECURED UNUSED CARGO HOSE DURING LOADING OPERATIONS

Event Description

During loading operations at a terminal an AB observed that one cargo hose — not in use for the ongoing operation and correctly blank-flanged — had not been properly secured in its stowed position. Although the hose did not pose an immediate operational hazard, its unsecured condition presented a potential risk of movement, obstruction, or accidental contact under changing environmental or operational conditions.

Actions Taken

- The loose cargo hose was immediately secured and correctly fastened according to standard procedures.
- The deck team was reminded to verify the condition and securing of all hoses, whether in use or not, before and during cargo operations.
- A brief toolbox meeting was held to reinforce the importance of proper housekeeping and stowage of cargo-handling equipment.
- A note was added to the cargo checklist to ensure unused hoses are systematically inspected.

Lessons Learned

Even equipment not directly involved in the operation can pose hazards if not properly secured. Routine checks, clear stowage discipline, and continuous situational awareness are essential to maintaining a safe working deck during cargo activities.

Key Takeaway

Secure all equipment — used or unused. Good stowage prevents unexpected hazards during cargo operations.

SAFETY CORNER

CRANE FAILURE DURING STORE LOADING INSIDE CANAL LOCK

Event Description

While the vessel was made fast inside a canal lock during transit, the Master instructed the deck crew to prepare for loading stores and provisions using the midship crane. Shortly after the crane was started, it operated only for a brief moment before stopping unexpectedly. No further crane movement was possible — including boom up/down, slewing, or wire hoisting.

The crane operator promptly informed the Chief Officer, who notified the Master, and the Chief Engineer was immediately called to assess the malfunction.

Actions Taken

- Crane operations were suspended and the equipment was isolated for safety.
- The engine team carried out an initial inspection to identify the possible cause of the failure.
- Loading of stores was put on hold until the crane's condition was verified.
- The deck and engine departments coordinated to check electrical systems, hydraulic pressure, and safety interlocks.
- The situation was monitored to ensure the vessel remained safe within the lock during the stoppage.

Lessons Learned

Crane operations in confined or restricted environments require full equipment reliability. Unexpected machinery failure during lifting activities can create hazards for crew, the vessel, and nearby infrastructure. Conducting pre-use functional tests, maintaining good communication, and responding immediately to equipment anomalies are essential practices.

Key Takeaway

If lifting equipment shows irregular behavior — stop immediately and investigate. Safe operations rely on fully functional and verified machinery

SAFETY CORNER

ECDIS FAILURE DURING WEEKLY CHART UP-DATE

Event Description

While the vessel was underway, the Second Officer began conducting the routine weekly ENC updates on one of the ECDIS units. The update started normally, but after some time an error occurred and the process stopped automatically. A second attempt to restart the update produced the same result, with no additional alarms or system warnings.

The Second Officer proceeded to restart the ECDIS unit to clear the error. After the restart command was given, the ECDIS failed to power back on, and the ON/OFF indicator on the monitor remained unlit. At the same time, the secondary ECDIS lost all sensor inputs and automatically reverted to Dead Reckoning mode. Manual position updates were carried out at short intervals and cross-checked with AIS data to maintain safe navigation.
The Master was informed, and the vessel's electrician attended to check the power supply, signals, and fuses. All fuses were found to be in proper condition.

Given the situation, the Master decided to install the spare ECDIS unit. After installation, some communication errors were noted, so the hard drives from the malfunctioning ECDIS were transferred to the spare unit. This action restored full functionality, and normal navigation resumed with both ECDIS units operating correctly.

Actions Taken

- Chart update was stopped and the malfunctioning ECDIS was isolated.
- Manual navigation practices were implemented, including frequent position fixes and cross-checks.
- The electrician inspected power supply components, signals, and fuses.
- The spare ECDIS unit was installed to restore redundancy.
- Hard drives from the failed ECDIS were transferred to resolve communication issues.
- A report was made for follow-up maintenance and manufacturer guidance.

Lessons Learned

ECDIS failures, particularly during updating or rebooting, can occur without warning and may affect multiple navigation systems simultaneously. Maintaining redundancy, ensuring the crew is proficient in manual navigation techniques, and having a properly configured spare ECDIS are essential for safe watchkeeping. Routine backups and familiarity with troubleshooting procedures greatly reduce operational risks.

SAFETY CORNER

UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLE LEFT INSIDE OPERATIONAL AREA DUE TO GATE MALFUNCTION

Event Description

During a routine maintenance visit, external technicians were unable to open the operational area gate when attempting to leave the facility. As a result, they were forced to leave their service vehicle parked inside the AOC operational area overnight.

The technicians were able to exit on foot through a pedestrian door integrated into the gate. The following day, once the gate issue was resolved, the vehicle was finally removed from the restricted area. Although no incident occurred, the presence of an unattended vehicle within a controlled zone represented a potential safety and security concern.

Actions Taken

- The situation was reported to the responsible terminal/port authorities.
- The gate malfunction was inspected and repaired to restore normal access.
- Access control logs were updated to reflect the temporary presence of the vehicle.
- A review was conducted regarding escorting procedures for external personnel.
- A reminder was issued to ensure prompt reporting of any equipment failures affecting safety or security.

Lessons Learned

Malfunctioning access points can lead to unauthorized or unplanned presence of vehicles or personnel within controlled operational areas. This can create safety hazards, obstruct emergency routes, or compromise security protocols. Ensuring all gates and access mechanisms are fully functional is essential, especially in restricted zones where operational activities are ongoing.

Key Takeaway

Reliable access control is vital — report and resolve gate malfunctions immediately to maintain safety and security.

SAFETY CORNER

AIR HOSE IMPROPERLY ROUTED ACROSS CATWALK, CREATING TRIP HAZARD

Event Description

During a morning round, it was observed that a crew member was using an air nipple located across the catwalk near the ballast pump area on the starboard side. The connected air hose had been routed across the walkway and was suspended roughly half a meter above the catwalk surface. This arrangement created a clear trip hazard for personnel moving through the area.

Neither the work area nor the suspended hose had been marked or signaled, leaving other crew members unaware of the hazard and increasing the likelihood of an accident.

Primary Cause & Contributing Factors

- **Lack of proper signaling and marking of the work area** (Primary Cause)
- Unsafe positioning of equipment, with the air hose routed across a regular access pathway
- Possible lack of awareness or disregard for safe work practices when using pneumatic tools in shared workspaces

Actions Taken

- The air hose was immediately removed or repositioned to eliminate the trip hazard.
- Warning signs, barriers, and proper marking were installed around the work area.
- The crew was briefed on hazard awareness, the risks of obstructing walkways, and safe practices for using pneumatic hoses.

Lessons Learned

Walkways and catwalks must remain clear of obstructions at all times. Temporary work setups should not compromise safe access routes. Proper signaling, physical barriers, and adherence to safe work practices are essential to prevent slips, trips, and falls — especially when using tools or equipment that may cross common movement paths.

Key Takeaway

Never place hoses or equipment across walkways — secure, signal, and safeguard the work area to prevent trip hazards.

Welcome aboard!

We are pleased to have you as part of our team and look forward to working together in a safe, respectful, and professional environment.

As you begin your assignment, please remember that safety is our highest priority—both for you and your fellow crewmates. Every task, no matter how routine, must be carried out with attention, care, and the proper procedures.

 A Few Key Reminders:

Familiarize yourself with the vessel's layout, muster stations, and emergency equipment.

Always wear the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate for your task.

Don’t hesitate to ask questions or raise concerns—your input helps us all stay safer.

Report any unsafe condition or behavior immediately to your supervisor or officer of the watch.

Respect shipboard hierarchy, follow procedures, and support your fellow crew members.

We are all here to maintain a professional standard, work as a team, and ensure a smooth and successful voyage for everyone onboard.

Once again, welcome aboard—and fair winds ahead!

- 2nd Off. CIOCAN Adrian Cosmin
- D.boy VILLEGAS Francis Kyle
- Cook CHIRU Adrian
- Cook PELEGRINO Gerald
- AB CASIMSIMAN Bimbo