



Loading of Nickel Iron Ore - Philippines

The Club has recently been advised by PANDIMAN Philippines Inc. of a worsening situation for vessels loading nickel ore in the Surigao area of Mindanao, Philippines.

Due to recent heavy rain in the region much of the mined nickel ore, which is usually left exposed to the elements prior to loading, is very wet. As members will be aware nickel ore is categorised as a Group A cargo in the IMSBC Code and therefore is liable to liquefy if the moisture content is excessive.

More worryingly, it appears that after independent testing of some nickel ore samples the actual moisture content is shown to be more than that declared by shippers on their Cargo Declaration. Understating a cargo's moisture content or overstating its Flow Moisture Point/ Transportable Moisture Limit can have serious implications for vessel's loading such cargoes. In the worst case this can lead to loss of the vessel.

It is recommended that Members with vessels intending to load nickel ore in this area contact the Club to make arrangements prior to the vessels' arrival for samples of the proposed cargo to be obtained for independent analysis.

Because of the inherent dangers with wet nickel ore cargoes the Club urges member to be extremely vigilant when their vessels are fixed for cargoes from the Surigao area of Mindanao.

An updated (as of 7 October 2016) version of PANDIMAN Philippines Inc.'s warning is [available here](#).



For further information on this or other Loss Prevention topics please contact the Loss Prevention Department, Steamship Insurance Management Services Ltd.

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