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International Group of P&I Club experience of HNS incident

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Highlights

- $\,\circ\,$ Cover provided by the 12 International Group Clubs
- Benefits of HNS Convention
- Limitation of liability
- Case Study "Hanjin Pennsylvania"
- Historic HNS experience



International Group Club P&I Cover

- o12 Clubs in the International Group of P&I Clubs
- Insure and pool third party liabilities relating to the use and operation of ships
- \circ Insure over 90% of the world's ocean-going tonnage
- Insure over 95% of ocean-going tankers
- Comprehensive cover designed to meet the needs of our Members
- HNS Convention damages already fall within the scope of Club cover



Benefits of HNS Convention

- An international business calls for international governance and regulation
- Strict liability offers prompt compensation in exchange for certainty of insurable limits of liability
- Predictability in terms of liability and exposure
- Equal treatment of victims globally in terms of compensation



Limitation of liability

• Higher limits of liability than LLMC 76 or 96 Protocol

 Potential for ship owners to have to establish multiple limitation funds

 HNS Fund only exposed in certain circumstances, and most importantly once ship owner limits have been exceeded







- On or around 8 November 2002 the vessel loaded 4,000 containers in Shanghai and Singapore for discharge at North European ports
- Of those, two containers contained cargoes of magnesium
- Three days out of Singapore, whilst the vessel was 160 nm off the East Coast of Sri Lanka a fire ball was seen emanating from the port side of hold no.4 running aft towards the bridge
- This was followed by an explosion
- Hatch covers of hold no.4 were blown off and various containers were lost overboard
- One crewmember who managed to access hold no.4 reported flames up to four metres high







- CO2 was injected into the holds and the crew did their best to tackle the fire with hoses
- Following a further explosion the decision was taken to evacuate the vessel





- o Bosun badly burnt and sadly died from his injuries
- An AB was not found, and presumed to have been thrown overboard by the explosion





- \circ Owners signed LOF incorporating SCOPIC
- $\circ\,\text{A}$ fire fighting tug arrived and SCOPIC was invoked
- General average was declared
- Fire experts, salvage experts, nautical surveyors and lawyers were instructed
- By 14 November the situation seemed to have improved
- Six crewmembers re-boarded the vessel
- There was a further explosion in hold no.6
- The crewmembers jumped overboard and were rescued























The Cost

- 1976 LLMC limit of liability approx. US\$10.2 million
- Under 2015 revised 96 LLMC Protocol limit would have been approx. US\$37 million
- Total claims paid well within limitation at approx. US\$3 million
- Less than US\$500,000 of that related to pollution damage/claims and less than US\$200,000 for death compensation
- Ship owner's HNS limit of liability approx. US\$126 million



Historic HNS experience

- January 2002 January 2010
- 192 HNS incidents reported
- 189 within ship owner's limit under the HNS Convention
- Two out of remaining three incidents in States which have not hitherto acceded to IMO liability and compensation Conventions
- Maximum HNS Fund exposure over eight year period approx. US\$43.5 million



Historic HNS experience

January 2010 - January September 2019

o 220 HNS incidents reported

219 within ship owner's limit under the HNS Convention

- Remaining incident exceeded ship owner's limit by US\$9.3 million
- Maximum HNS Fund exposure between 2002 2019 year approx. US\$49.3 million

Only if States had been States Parties to the Convention



Lessons to learn and conclusions

- Dramatic images and extensive damage but cost well within HNS limit of liability
- Larger ships provide potential for larger casualties
- Depends on substances involved and proximity to shore and people
- Largest exposure often concerns non-HNS Convention liabilities
- Majority of exposure will still be borne by ship owners and their insurers
- International Group supports the HNS Convention



Thank you