

## **Casualty Circular No. 13 of 2009** **(Regulatory/Guidance/Information)**

NO:11-NT(5)/2005

Dated: 17.07.2009

**Subject: Hull damage sustained by Indian flag Research Vessel at sea in 2005.**

### **NARRATIVE**

This Ocean Research Vessel, flag - Indian, was involved in research activities in the proximity of island in Indian waters to assess the changes in ocean bed subsequent to the devastating earthquake and Tsunami which hit the islands in 2004. The vessel while at the proximity of one of the islands moderate earthquake hit the area on 24.01.05 at about 0948 hrs. The vessel experienced heavy vibrations for about 3-4 minutes in waters about 500 mtrs. depth. The Master of the vessel observed continuous ingress of water in No.5 DB tank. The under water inspection of the vessel was carried out in port which revealed a crack between two frames. A temporary repair was carried out under supervision of class and the vessel resumed operations with condition of class imposed on its certificate of class.

### **OBSERVATIONS/ANALYSES**

- The vessel was operating in an area of depth over 500 mtrs., the moderate earthquake occurred in the vicinity which measured 6.2 on Richter Scale resulted heavy vibration to the vessel.
- There were already 8 Nos. conditions of class imposed by the class on hull related items. These items were overdue for inspection.
- There was no maintenance schedule available for hull and machinery items.
- The vessel was exempted from the compliance with the provisions of ISM code.
- The vessel's tank bottom plate especially 'A' strake had extensive localized corrosion.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/LESSONS LEARNT**

- It is essential that the Plan Maintenance Schedule (PMS) for hull and machinery items should be available and effectively implemented by the company and the ship's staff.

- Keeping in mind, the old age of the vessel and exemption from compliance with ISM code provisions, the class should be extremely careful in imposing condition of class in the suspect areas.
- The Master of the vessel should be advised by the owner to carry out periodical inspection of the suspect areas in the hull/superstructure as per the class requirements to maintain structural strength under all operational conditions.
- The Flag State should target such type of vessels under FSI regime.
- This inspection should be made mandatory and conducted at periodical interval.

**Sd/-**

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