

Hygroscopic Cargo – Checklist

Prior to loading	
Ensure holds are clean, dry and free from odour	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure bilges are clean, free from odour and tested	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test bilge non-return valves and high level alarms (where fitted)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protect bilge covers with burlap and secure in place (bulk cargoes)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flush sounding and thermometer pipes with water	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check holds for signs of infestation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure ventilation arrangements (e.g. fans, trunkings, dampers, seals) are working correctly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Verify that hatch covers and hold access doors are weathertight	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test smoke detection and smothering systems (where fitted)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure tank top manhole gaskets are sound and that covers are tight	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure ballast suction cover plates are secure (ballast holds only)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Record details of pre-loading measures in the deck logbook	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loading	
Discuss dunnaging plan with stevedores	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure only sound cargo is loaded ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
Measure and record cargo temperatures regularly during loading	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reject any cargo with abnormally excessive temperatures	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitor weather conditions carefully and close hatches at the first sign of rain	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure equipment for measuring hold dew point temperature is available and working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additionally for bagged cargo	
Cover tank top with double dunnage or bamboo ²	<input type="checkbox"/>
Position dunnage or bamboo crosswise against frames, interwoven to provide a barrier	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cover dunnage/bamboo and all exposed steelwork with fibre matting or Kraft liner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prevent use of cargo handling hooks by stevedores	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure bags are not loaded in the spaces between frames	<input type="checkbox"/>
Follow requirements of shippers/charterers regarding construction of ventilation channels ³	<input type="checkbox"/>
On passage	
Record hold dewpoints, external air dewpoint and sea temperature once per watch ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue, stop or resume ventilation in accordance with Dewpoint or Three Degree Rule	<input type="checkbox"/>
Record times when ventilation was commenced, stopped or resumed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Record details of necessary halting of ventilation due to heavy weather or precipitation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Record soundings of cargo hold bilges at least daily	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspect in-hold steelwork for condensation (following SMS enclosed space procedures)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Record details if signs of cargo deterioration are observed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure ventilation and bilge sounding records are retained in case of cargo claims	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notify club correspondent at discharge port prior to arrival if cargo deterioration occurs	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Reject bags which are torn, stained, damp or in otherwise suspect condition

² Lay first layer in direction of the bilges, not more than 20 cm apart. Lay second layer at right angles to the first

³ For certain bagged cargoes, ventilation channels may be required by the IMDG Code, (e.g. some types of seed cake, fishmeal)

⁴ Dewpoint Rule only. If following the Three Degree Rule, record external air temperature and sea temperature once per watch