

Media Release – 24 October 2017

“On the tragic loss of EMERALD STAR”

INTERCARGO is deeply concerned with the tragic loss of the 57k dwt Bulk Carrier EMERALD STAR in the morning of the 13th October with 26 seafarers on board. To date, 16 crew members have been rescued while 10 crew members are still missing. Our thoughts are with the families and loved ones of the seafarers. As long as there is still hope, our wishes are for the missing crew to be found and the loss of life in this tragic event to be minimised.

EMERALD STAR was laden with Indonesian Nickel Ore on a voyage from Indonesia to China when she sank about 150 nautical miles north-east of the Philippines.

INTERCARGO praises the Search And Rescue (SAR) coordination and efforts in response to this tragedy.

INTERCARGO appreciates the Flag State’s swift action of commencing the investigation of this casualty and encourages close collaboration among all stakeholders (e.g. Classification Society, Owner, Manager, Charterer and P&I Club) in order to submit the accident report to IMO as quickly as possible.

Lessons need to be learnt promptly after maritime casualties. INTERCARGO stresses the importance of timely submission of the casualty investigation report to IMO, as a means of identifying the causes of the incident and enabling corrective actions. To this end and given its commitment to the safety of seafarers and ships as its top priority, INTERCARGO engages itself in making full use of such a report outcome in the industry fora where it participates and in its capacity as the International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners.

In the meantime, INTERCARGO urges the exercise of extreme caution when loading Nickel Ore and other challenging cargoes and stresses the importance of adhering to the provisions in the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code (IMSBC Code) to maximise safety in the transportation of dry bulk cargoes.

About INTERCARGO: The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners was established in 1980 with the objective of giving a voice to shipowners, managers and operators of dry cargo vessels and better representing this shipping sector. Our Members commit to a safe, efficient, high quality and environmentally-friendly dry cargo shipping industry. INTERCARGO is an accredited NGO observer at IMO and a member of the Round Table of International Shipping Associations. INTERCARGO considers that free and fair competition in the shipping industry is of fundamental importance and this serves as its prime principle.

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