

"SARNIA NEWS" CIRCULAR

(Ref: 300/16/VAR)

TO ALL SHIPOWNER CLIENTS

27TH June 2016

Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE Customs Fines at Nikolaev

We refer to previous Circular No. 246/14 dated 15.10.14 and please be guided by the latest information received from the P&I correspondents, Messrs DIAS Marine Consultants Company Ltd., Ukraine concerning fines being imposed by the Nikolaev Customs Authorities. Apparently Customs Officers have been conducting bunker quality surveys as part of inward clearance formalities to check whether or not the actual amounts of fuel, ship's stores and any other goods on board that have been stated in the vessels customs declaration are correct. If the figures are found to exceed the quantities declared, the Customs are imposing large fines.

Best regards

The Loss Prevention Team

From: Elliott.Watson@lodestar-marine.com [<mailto:Elliott.Watson@lodestar-marine.com>]

Sent: 16 June 2016 13:12

Subject: RE: Customs fines at Nikolaev 16.06.2016

Good Morning,

Our Correspondents Dias, in the Ukraine, have kindly made us aware of customs fines being imposed in Nikolaev. The following information further explains the situation:

“Customs fines at Nikolaev

Customs Authorities in Nikolaev Port imposing large fines for small declaration errors.

We have been made aware of the following by our Ukrainian Correspondents, Dias.

We have repeatedly reported to our Principals and their Assureds an outrageous Customs “activities” in Nikolaev sea port. In particular we mean their practice of imposing huge fines on foreign-flagged ships for failure to declare the ship’s stores and any goods on board. Unfortunately, this practice is not only still going on but it’s getting more frequent of late.

We have to remind all parties concerned that before entering this port, almost everything on board shall be inserted in the Customs declaration: medicines (drugs), cash (both that of the ship and the crew members’ personal savings), barrels/tins of paint or oil, as well as any other stores and various commodities on board.

The Nikolaev Customs officers do the sounding of the ship’s bunker tanks, i.e. actually perform a bunker survey of fuel and diesel oil and if they found any discrepancy between their findings and figures declared by the Chief Engineer the fine is inevitable. The sum of the fine is rather big - it is calculated as double cost of undeclared goods. Inaccurately declared bunker leads to particularly high fines.

Our statistics shows that every week on average one ship is getting fined by the Customs and we would like to urge the ships’ Masters to adhere closely to the ship’s agents’ recommendations/instructions and to declare almost everything on board the ships to comply with strict requirements of the Ukrainian Customs. As a rule ship’s agents provide Master/Owners with Customs’ requirements in their pre-arrival notices but we presume that in many cases Assureds do not take adequate care and attention to such notices.

Owners should notify the ship’s command to ensure that they are aware of the importance of accurately completing the Customs declaration. If there is any doubt as to what to declare, advice can be sought from our Correspondents directly - <http://www.lodestar-marine.com/correspondents/23>”

This information is also available on our website : <http://www.lodestar-marine.com/claims-loss-prevention/customs-fines-at-nikolaev>

Kind Regards,

The Lodestar Marine Team



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