



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° SOL 043

LOADING, UNLOADING AND STOWAGE OF BULK CARGOES* **SOLAS 74 Chapter VI – Reg. 7.3**

TO: **SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS AND MANAGERS, MASTERS, FLAG STATE SURVEYORS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

APPLICABLE TO: ALL BULK CARRIERS TO WHICH SOLAS 74 – Ch. VI – Reg.7.3 APPLIES

EFFECTIVE AS FROM: Date of this Circular

Monaco, 11th August 2010

An agreed loading/unloading plan between the terminal representative and the master is a mandatory requirement under SOLAS Chapter VI Regulation 7.3.

The above mentioned mandatory requirement is not universally applied and may be attributed to the lack of mutual agreement between the terminal representative and the master on appropriate loading and unloading rates for solid bulk cargoes to prevent over-stressing of the ship's structure.

IACS Recommendation No. 46 provides guidance and information on bulk cargo loading and discharging to reduce the likelihood of over-stressing the hull structure for bulk carriers.

St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration urges ship-owners, ships' operators, ship's masters and managers to consider IACS Recommendation No. 46 and the annexed additional consideration for the safe loading of bulk carriers (MSC.1/Circ. 1357 dated 19th June 2010) when developing an agreed loading or unloading plan in accordance with SOLAS Chapter VI - Regulation 7.3 and the BLU Code (resolution A.862 (20), as amended).

* Refers to the Code of Practice for the Safe Loading and Unloading of Bulk Carrier (BLU Card) adopted by the Organization in its Resolution A.862 (20).