



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION
TASAC



ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

In reply please quote:

Ref No. DA.173/360/01F/56

25th April, 2025

To: All Clearing and Forwarding Agents, Licensed Shipping Agents, Ship Operators and Ship Owners, Ship Masters and Chief Officers, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Port Terminal Operators, Stevedores and the General public.

RE: ISSUANCE OF MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE 2925 IMPROPER CARGO STOWAGE AND HANDLING ABOARD SHIPS CALLING AT TANZANIAN PORTS

Reference is made to the above subject matter.

2. The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) wishes to emphasize the importance of adhering to the *Merchant Shipping Act, 2003 (as amended)*, *SOLAS 1974, Chapters VI and VII*, *International Maritime Organization (IMO) Codes including the Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing* in all vessels calling Tanzanian ports. It is imperative that all licensed shipping agents engage their respective principals to ensure that ships arriving at our ports are in full compliance with these IMO standards.

3. We have observed with concern a recurring issue of improperly stowed cargoes, which present several operational and safety challenges, including:

- (i) restricted access to cargoes and lifting points, which complicates and delays unloading process;
- (ii) reduced terminal efficiency, as discharging operations are slowed by the need to navigate and correct poorly stowed cargo; and
- (iii) increased risk during cargo discharge operations, subjecting port workers to potentially hazardous situations.

4. To uphold safety and operational efficiency, we urge all agents to actively remind their principals on the critical importance of proper cargo stowage and securing practices. This letter serves as the official issuance of Merchant Shipping Notice No. 0125, which provides directives concerning the improper stowage and securing of cargo on ships calling at Tanzanian ports (***Attached: Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN 2925) Improper Cargo Stowage and Handling Aboard Ships Calling at Tanzanian Ports***).

5. Your cooperation in this matter will go a long way in promoting safe and efficient port operations in Tanzania.


Nelson C. Mlali

Ag. DIRECTOR GENERAL

CC: Director General,
Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA),
P. O. Box 9184,
DAR ES SALAAM.



MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

MSN 2925

IMPROPER CARGO STOWAGE AND HANDLING ABOARD SHIPS CALLING AT TANZANIAN PORTS

Notice is hereby issued to all Clearing and Forwarding Agents, all Shipping Agents, all Ship Operators and Ship Owners, Ship Masters and Chief Officers, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Port Terminal Operators, Stevedores and the General public.

This notice should be read with the Merchant Shipping Act, 2003 (as amended), SOLAS 1974, Chapters VI and VII, International Maritime Organization (IMO) Codes mentioned in section 6.0 of this notice.

1.0 Introduction

This Merchant Shipping Notice serves to address with urgency the recurring issue of improperly stowed cargoes aboard ships calling at ports in the United Republic of Tanzania. TASAC, as the Maritime Administration, has observed with concern a pattern of non-compliant stowage practices which pose significant risks to port operations, cargo integrity and human safety.

2.0 Observations and Concerns

- (i) Restricted access to cargoes and lifting points, complicating cargo retrieval and significantly delaying unloading operations;
- (ii) Reduced terminal efficiency, as discharge operations are hindered by the need to rearrange or manually correct poorly placed cargo;
- (iii) Increased risk to port workers, who are subjected to hazardous environments due to unsecured or poorly balanced cargo during discharging;
- (iv) Violation of international codes and manuals, particularly when stowage obstructs fire exits, access ways, or structural integrity; and
- (v) Increased liability to ship owners/operators, due to cargo damage, injury claims, and possible vessel detention.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT
TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION
TASAC



3.0 Regulatory requirements

3.1 The Merchant Shipping Act, 2003 (as amended);

3.2 SOLAS 1974, Chapters VI and VII;

3.3 International Maritime Organization (IMO) Codes, including:

- (i) CSS Code: Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing
- (ii) IMDG Code: For Dangerous Goods
- (iii) IMSBC Code: For Bulk Cargoes
- (iv) Grain Code: For Bulk Grain Cargo
- (v) Ship's Cargo Securing Manual (CSM) and Stability Documentation
- (vi) Port Facility Security Code under ISPS compliance

4.0 Mandatory Instructions

With immediate effect, the following instructions must be observed without exception:

4.1 Ship Operators / Owners / Masters/Shipping Agents

- (i) Ensure all cargoes are stowed in a manner that allows safe, direct access to lifting points and discharge equipment;
- (ii) Review stowage plans prior to arrival in Tanzanian ports to avoid delays and operational risk;
- (iii) Follow the ship's approved Cargo Securing Manual (CSM) and ensure all cargo units are properly lashed and dunnaged;
- (iv) Prevent stowage in walkways, escape routes, or around essential firefighting and lifesaving equipment; and
- (v) Engage qualified officers to supervise pre-loading stowage inspections and verify the safe securing of each cargo unit.

4.2 Clearing and Forwarding Agents

- (i) Provide complete and accurate cargo documentation, including weight, dimensions, and handling instructions;
- (ii) Avoid collusion or facilitation of loading personal or unmanifested goods, which often result in hazardous stowage; and



- (iii) Ensure pre-alerts and cargo manifests are submitted in advance to allow terminal coordination.

4.3 Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) / Terminal Operators

- (i) Strengthen cargo inspection protocols prior to and during loading operations.
- (ii) Report to TASAC any cases of non-compliant stowage or suspected improper loading.
- (iii) Collaborate with TASAC to implement random inspections and operational audits on vessels prior to unloading.

5.0 Consequences for Non-Compliance

- (i) Immediate detention of the vessel by TASAC under Port State Control jurisdiction;
- (ii) Suspension or revocation of port entry/exit clearance;
- (iii) On-site re-stowage or cargo rejection at the vessel's expense;
- (iv) Fines and penalties under the Merchant Shipping Act;
- (v) Suspension of clearing and forwarding licenses where direct involvement is proven; and
- (vi) Inclusion in TASAC's High-Risk Operators Watchlist, affecting future port access.

6.0 Issued by:

Registrar on 25th April, 2025

7.0 For Inquiries contact:

Registrar

Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC)

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