

TITLE:	STEEL PRE-SHIPMENT INSPECTIONS	DATE:	21/03/2011
CATEGORY:	CARGO: DRY	AREA:	WORLDWIDE

We have recently received a number of enquiries from Members regarding the Club's position on the requirement for steel pre-shipment surveys to be undertaken.

Vessel owners have an obligation to cargo owners to deliver cargo carried on their ships in the same condition as when it was loaded. However, finished steel products are susceptible to physical damage and rusting which can occur prior to shipment. Even relatively minor damage to steel products can lead to extensive claims being pursued against a vessel owner. In order to defend claims, and for the Club to be able to best protect Members' interests, the importance of accurately claused bills of lading is therefore self-evident.

Preventing a loss is always better than handling a claim and the steel pre-shipment inspection is one of the best loss prevention measures that Members are likely to take with regard to cargo care.

Experienced P&I Club surveyors know what to look for and where to look for it. Leaving the task to Masters and Deck Officers may prove to be an expensive, false economy.

Products that should be subjected to a pre-shipment inspection include:

- Structural Sections
- Beams and Columns
- Bearing Piles
- Channels
- Angles
- Plates
- Hot Rolled Coils
- Cold Rolled Coils
- Coils of Bar and Wire Rod
- Flat Bars, Merchant Bars and Grousers
- Track Products
- Pipes and Tubes.

Products not routinely requiring a pre-shipment inspection include:

- Slabs
- Billets
- Blooms.

Additionally, it is usual when carrying out the pre-shipment survey that the appointed surveyor will also:

- Inspect the vessel's hatchcovers to ensure weathertight integrity
- Advise the Master on, and monitoring of, loading and stowage.

Members should remember that early instructions need to be given when steel products are to be loaded. This will give the surveyor time to contact the local agents and establish what is to be loaded and where it is being stored.

If Members require any further information please contact one of the below.

Source of information:

The Shipowners' Protection Limited – Loss Prevention Department

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