



Maritec Tanker Management Pvt Ltd

5th floor, G wing, Unit no 501, Lotus Corporate Park, 185/A, Graham Firth Compound,
Goregaon (East), Mumbai – 400063. India. Phone- +91-22-6863 1800; Email:qhse@maritectankers.com

SAFETY CIRCULAR

13/2021

Date: 29th Nov 2021

To: Fleet

SUBJECT: SAFE HANDLING OF STEEL PLATES

RISKS / HAZARDS OF STEEL PLATES

The greatest hazard in handling steel plates is the weight of the plates coming on the persons handling them due to -

- inadequate or failed securing arrangements.
- slipped, overloaded, or failed lifting attachments.
- loss of control of heavy material or equipment during lifting or moving.
- unknown / unexpected / excessive weights.
- improper manual handling of heavyweights (finger injuries/back injuries).
- Sudden vessel movement/rolling.

SAFETY BARRIERS FOR HANDLING THE PLATES

- Any operation of lifting plates / heavy objects is prohibited during bad weather.
- Use positive locking plate clamps. Follow manufacturer's guidance.
- Lift only one piece of steel at a time.
- Position crane or hoist directly over the load. This prevents swinging as it clears the floor or ground.
- Tag lines (Guidelines) be used, during lifting, for safe maneuvering of loads.
- Loads should not be moved over people working below.
- Ensure that the entire stack is not left unsecured when removing/adding a plate to an existing stack. Take extra care while handling plates that are not stowed horizontally

STORAGE OF STEEL PLATES

Note: For plates that are required to be handled regularly, prefer the vertical storage of the plates using the storage rack.



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Vertical Storage:

- Rack should be positioned in the fore and aft direction.

Stowage rack with lifting arrangement – where overhead lifting points/davits/cranes etc. are not available

Stowage rack without lifting arrangement – where overhead lifting points/davits/cranes etc. are available

Horizontal Storage:

- To be used where there is adequate space available, and the storage does not cause a tripping hazard/ obstruction.
- Ensure lifting arrangements are available and the plates are separated, to allow individual handling of the plates and to prevent crush injuries.
- To be in an area not exposed to the weather to prevent corrosion on the undersides.

PREVENTIVE CHECKS

- Plates ordered pre-cut to the size required.
- Training of all crew members with precautions for handling heavy steel plates.
- Mark the plate storage area with hazard markings and “Caution: Heavy Weight Area”.
- The weight and size of the plates should be marked on each plate – *Weight of the plates in Kgs = Length (in meters) x Width (in meters) x thickness (in millimeters) x 8 (constant)*
- Ship-specific risk assessment to be prepared for handling heavy objects and steel plates on the vessel. The same is to be approved quarterly / or when modified, by the superintendent. Toolbox talks to include the last approved Risk assessment before handling steel plates and other heavy materials.
- Planned Maintenance system schedule to be prepared for inspection and maintenance of the storage rack, clamps, and other lifting equipment.

QHSE

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