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Notification

Date 17th January 2023

By DUTCH P&I Correspondents

Our reference Contraband on board of ships

Your reference Loss Prevention

Subject Notification: Increase of unauthorised persons on board of ships to take receipt of contrabands.

Dear relation of DUTCH P&I Correspondents,

During the past year the Dutch authorities see an increasing amount of contraband, such as different types of drugs, being shipped to the Netherlands on board of ships. The vast majority of the drugs is carried from South or Central American ports and onwards for distribution throughout Europe.

The contraband is usually carried on board deepsea going vessels, hided inside sealed (reefer) containers or near hold entrances or other public available areas on board the ships. In case the contraband is hided inside hold entrances, void spaces, etc., the goods will be removed at some stage by persons who are involved in the drugs trafficking.

We have taken note of an increase involvement of these persons who are involved to pick-up the contraband from the vessel and impersonating to be a bunker surveyor, salesman, cargo inspector or insurance surveyor.

It is therefore advised that all ships who are originating from risk areas, to keep a strict ISPS entrance policy. All persons who board the vessel should have a full ID check (not a copy) and their purpose of their visit should be made known to the Master in order verify if indeed their services are required. After being allowed on board the vessel, the persons should in no event be left alone on board the vessel, in particular when they board the vessel with multiple persons.

In case of doubt regarding the intention of the visiting persons, always let the Master discuss matters with the Correspondent for further assistance and/or advice.

Dutch P&I Correspondents will remain available 24/7 to assist the Members and crew.