



Winter comes, bringing strong winds and new risks to vessels loading steel cargoes at Novorossiysk port. Novorossiysk is known by natural phenomena called 'bora' (also called 'nordost'), the wind of the northeast direction reaching hurricane force. Throughout the year there are 46-48 days of 'bora' wind on average, traditionally more strong and frequent in winter period with gusts up to 40-60 m/sec.

Even NE-wind at a speed of 17-20 m/sec can pose a risk to vessels loading steel cargoes at berths exposed to the on-shore wind direction, namely berths 15 (in strong wind), 16 (now closed for reconstruction), 17, 7, 8, and 9.



The case

The loading of steel billets onboard a bulk carrier was suspended by terminal due to strong wind.

The vessel closed hatch covers two hours later. Sea water spray transferred by wind entered the holds, affecting steel cargoes inside the hold.

Random check of the surface of cargo by shipper's surveyor revealed positive reaction to silver nitrate solution tests. Cleaning of cargo with fresh water was arranged to remove chlorides from the surface of steel products and avoid vessel's liability for chloride contamination of cargo.



Recommendations to vessel

Be aware of the potential problem. Check the forecasts. If moderate-strong NE-wind is expected, monitor weather conditions constantly. When the wind starts transferring foam from waves and there is a risk of sea water being entered into the vessel's holds, close hatch covers. Following this simple advice will protect you from high-profile claims.