



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011

## Bulletin 792 - 10/11 - Defective reefers - Worldwide

**The Club has received reports that reefer containers that have been recently repaired and/or maintained in Vietnam have suffered catastrophic failure. Three incidents so far have resulted in fatalities.**

Recently there have been numerous incidents of reefer containers exploding. Fortunately these explosions have all occurred on the quayside and not onboard. It has been speculated that the refrigerant gas supplied to these reefers was off spec. However this claim is unsubstantiated at this time. It is likely however that poor maintenance to these units is the root cause. The only connection these containers have in common is that they were all repaired or maintained in Vietnam in the last eight months.

It is apparent that these reefer containers were supplied to their respective lines by three different vendors meaning the fault lies not with one specific vendor in Vietnam.

The Club has been advised that numerous container lines are taking action to deal with the threat that these containers pose. Empty containers are not an issue as they are not active however all 'live' containers could pose a possible safety threat.

The Club urges any members who have had reefer containers repaired or maintained in Vietnam since February 2011 to exercise caution when handling these units and to have these units checked at the earliest opportunity. Additionally it may be prudent to contact the manufacturer of the unit for instruction and guidance.

**Source of Information:**

Loss Prevention  
UK P&I Club

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