

Notification

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Date 3rd September 2021

By DUTCH P&I Correspondents

Our reference Update on Dutch law amendments

Your reference Loss Prevention

Subject Notification: Port of Rotterdam will start enforcing inspections on lashing operations while underway by ship's staff.

As from 1st September all (container) vessels underway in the Rotterdam Port area may be subject to inspections by the Port Authorities to investigate if container lashings on board of the vessel are being removed or applied while still underway by the ship's crew. This concerns vessels proceeding to the berth or vessels departing from the berth in the port area.

The following was declared by the Port of Rotterdam:

"Investigations revealed that crew members of some vessels which are proceeding in the harbour area of the port of Rotterdam are involved with removing- or applying of container lashings while underway. This is an unwanted development, as applying- or removing of lashings while the vessel is underway is a very unsafe operation. To prevent accidents during these operations, a total ban on the previous mentioned operations is enforced for seagoing vessels which are present in the harbour basins and fairways in the port of Rotterdam."

In accordance with the Port Regulations (11.4.1), lashing operations on board the vessel while moored alongside the quay in the management area of the Port of Rotterdam, are only allowed by the ship's crew of vessels with a length of less than 170 metres. Containers on board of vessels with a length of >170 metres can only be lashed by licensed shore based lashing companies.

- As from April 2021 a new regulation (11.4.1a) came into force, in which it prohibited to lash/unlash containers while underway in the port of Rotterdam area.
- As from 1st September the Rotterdam Port Authorities have started with the inspection of the vessels, which is mainly concentrated to seagoing vessels with a length of less than 170 metres carrying containers and will effectively enforce penalties in the event of violations of the new regulations.

The above means that the Port Authority can issue a fine, the height of the fine is unknown and will be determined by the public prosecutor office.

For further details, we refer to the following links:

News article: <https://www.portofrotterdam.com/en/news-and-press-releases/checks-on-lashing-at-sea-from-1-september>

Rotterdam Port Regulation: <https://lokaleregelgeving.overheid.nl/CVDR636205> (article 11.4.1 and 11.4.1a)