

RECOMMENDATIONS

In 1972, the National Transportation Safety Board released a special study entitled Analysis of the Safety of Transportation of Hazardous Materials on the Navigable Waters of the United States. In that study the Safety Board recommended that:

"The Coast Guard revise the regulations concerning the qualifications of tankermen and licensed officers who handle extremely hazardous materials to require special qualifications and endorsements for these specific materials."

This casualty indicates that a need still exists for implementing this recommendation.

The Safety Board concurs with the Commandant's response to the Marine Board's recommendation that meaningful safety meetings and drills be frequently and regularly held aboard tank vessels so as to insure the proper instruction of all crewmembers concerning the on board and proposed cargo hazards together with the use and limitations of all safety equipment carried on board. In order to assure clear and specific requirements in this regard, the Safety Board recommends that the U. S. Coast Guard:

1. Review and revise its requirements regarding the responsibility of owners/masters to indoctrinate crews in the safe use of emergency equipment on tank vessels. (Recommendation No. M-74-25)

The Safety Board further recommends that:

2. The U.S. Coast Guard:
  - a. Review and revise requirements for emergency equipment to assure that such equipment is adequate for all emergency situations which might reasonably be expected to occur within cargo tanks, and require a scheduled check procedure to insure that emergency equipment is maintained in working order. (Recommendation No. M-74-26)
  - b. Establish equipment functional or location requirements which assure that piping system components on tank vessels cannot cause cargo to spill when men enter cargo tanks, regardless of the operation to be performed. (Recommendation No. M-74-27)

- c. Establish detailed inspection procedures and provide proper training to its marine inspectors to assure the reliability of the required emergency equipment. (Recommendation No. M-74-28)
- d. Require that a written cargo-loading plan be made and posted each time cargo is to be transferred aboard chemical tankers, and further, that a check procedure be developed to assure the desired gating is achieved. (Recommendation No. M-74-29)
- e. Seek authority to establish guidelines that will, except in emergencies, prevent excessively prolonged duty periods which result in fatigue and deteriorated duty performance. (Recommendation No. M-74-30)
- f. Require that all operators of chemical tank vessels be required to maintain updated operating manuals aboard each ship showing the proper operation of the piping system for anticipated transfer operations. (Recommendation No. M-74-31)