



## STEAMSHIP MUTUAL

To the Members

February 2009

Dear Sirs,

### COLLISION AVOIDANCE DVD

The risk of collisions between ships at sea is ever present, and is one that affects all ship operators regardless of vessel type or the nature of their trade. It is also a risk that has shown signs of increase in recent years, possibly influenced by the shortage of experienced Masters, officers and crew.

Collisions have the potential to give rise to much more than just claims for physical damage to the vessels involved. Whilst many collisions involve relatively minor contact damage caused whilst manoeuvring in the confined waters of a port, there are others that have much more serious consequences. Serious damage incurred by a laden vessel as the result of a collision, particularly one that occurs at speed and thus involves high energy, can easily result in the loss of a vessel and its cargo, and pollution of the environment arising from the loss of bunkers and other contaminants. More important is the risk to human life. The Club has experienced too many casualties in the past where all, or a major proportion of a vessel's crew have been lost as the result of collisions, particularly those that have been followed by events such as the sudden foundering of a vessel, or rapidly accelerating fires.

The Managers' investigations of collision incidents regularly show that inadequate attention is paid to the following Steering and Sailing Rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea:

Rule 5 - Look-out

Rule 6 - Safe speed

Rule 7 - Risk of collision

Rule 8 - Action to avoid collision

In an effort to raise awareness of these issues amongst watch-keeping officers, The Managers have produced, with the financial support of The Ship Safety Trust a Loss Prevention DVD entitled "Collision Course" on the subject of collision avoidance. In addition to focusing upon the four key areas above, the programme also emphasises the requirements of Rule 19 when vessels are navigating in restricted visibility. The film is presented by Edward Stourton and produced by Callisto Productions with the support of the Nautical Institute, and the UK's Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB), and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). The DVD uses graphics to re-construct three collisions, and also includes numerous reference documents and weblinks to facilitate further study.

Copies of the DVD are enclosed with the compliments of the Managers, for supply to Members' vessels. Further copies, if required, can be obtained on application to the Managers' London representatives.

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Yours faithfully,

THE STEAMSHIP MUTUAL UNDERWRITING  
ASSOCIATION (BERMUDA) LIMITED

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