

**Circular № 3-25-08-25****Re: Carriage and Handling of “Cryomix” (Cryoprotectant for Surimi Production)**

After several approaches from our Assureds regarding the carriage of cryomix substance separately and with other cargo, INGOSSTRAKH wishes to summarize the current situation and draw Owner's attention to the number of practical recommendations, which can allow Shipowners to minimize potential losses.

**Background**

In the framework of the first incident the Insurers have been advised in South Korea where a fishing vessel reported the spillage of a substance identified as Cryomix. This product is used in the production of surimi (edible fish paste) as a cryoprotectant. Cryomix was found on the top of the cartons with frozen fish, which led to suspension of the unloading operation.

**Composition and Classification**

“Cryomix” typically consists of food-grade ingredients, such as:

- Sugars (sucrose, glucose, sorbitol);
- Polyols (sorbitol);
- Food-grade phosphates (sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium hexametaphosphate).

These substances are recognised food additives under international food standards. Importantly, Cryomix does not appear in the IMDG Code Dangerous Goods List and is therefore not classified as dangerous cargo under IMO regulations. It is shipped under the general category of foodstuffs/additives.

**Practical Risks**

Although not hazardous in terms of IMO classification, the Insurers draw Client's attention to certain risks that may arise in the event of spillage:

- Slip hazards: spilled powders or paste residues on deck create a significant risk of crew injury;
- Dust irritation: phosphate powders may cause temporary eye and respiratory tract irritation if handled without protection;
- Environmental impact: phosphate-rich residues or wash water should not be discharged into the sea, as they may contribute to eutrophication;

- Cargo impact: potential contamination of cargo packages within a hold due to air circulation of spilled powder;
- Damage to packaging and cargo: under the influence of moisture cryomix acquires a viscous or sticky (“gum-like”) consistency, which could be cause of damage to packaging and cargo.



## Recommendations

- Ensure that Cryomix is transported in properly sealed packaging or containers;
- Implement prompt clean-up procedures to mitigate slip and dust hazards in the event of spillage;
- Prevent overboard discharge of residues, and dispose of waste in accordance with MARPOL Annex V requirements.

## Conclusion

While Cryomix is not considered a dangerous good under the IMDG Code, Owners are reminded of the importance of good housekeeping, careful stowage, and prompt clean-up to mitigate the practical risks associated with this cargo.

Having in mind the serious consequences of the Cryomix spillage, even in doubted situations immediately getting in contact with Ingosstrakh for engagement of local P&I Correspondents will be essential for handling of the matter in the most professional and effective manner.