

Hygroscopic cargo - checklist

Prior to loading

Ensure hold are clean, dry and free from odour	
Ensure bilges are clean, free from odour and tested	
Test bilge non-return valves and high level alarms (where fitted)	
Protect bilge covers with burlap and secure in place (bulk cargoes)	
Flush sounding and thermometer pipes with water	
Check holds for signs of infestation	
Ensure ventilation arrangements (eg. fans, trunkings, dampers, seals) are working correctly	
Verify that hatch covers and hold access doors are watertight	
Test smoke detection and smothering systems (where fitted)	
Ensure tank top manhole gaskets are sound and that covers are tight	
Ensure ballast suction cover plates are secure (ballast holds only)	
Record details of pre-loading measures in the deck logbook	

Loading

Discuss dunnaging plan with stevedores	
Ensure only sound cargo is loaded ¹	
Measure and record cargo temperatures regularly during loading	
Reject any cargo with abnormally excessive temperatures	
Monitor weather conditions carefully and close hatches at the first sign of rain	
Ensure equipment for measuring hold dew point temperature is available and working	

Additional for bagged cargo

Cover tank top with double dunnage or bamboo ²	
Position dunnage or bamboo crosswise against frames, interwoven to provide a barrier	
Cover dunnage/bamboo and all exposed steelwork with fibre matting or kraft liner	
Prevent use of cargo hanging hooks by stevedores	
Ensure bags are not loaded in the spaces between frames	
Follow requirements of shippers/charterers regarding construction of ventilation channels ³	

On passage

Record hold dewpoints, external air dewpoint and sea temperature once per watch ⁴	
Follow enclosed space safety procedures if necessary to enter holds	
Continue, stop or resume ventilation in accordance with dewpoint or three degree rule	
Record times when ventilation was commenced, stopped or resumed	
Record details of necessary halting of ventilation due to heavy weather or precipitation	
Record soundings of cargo hold bilges at least daily	
Inspect in-hold steelwork for condensation (again following enclosed space procedures)	
Record details if signs of cargo deterioration are observed	
Ensure ventilation and bilge sounding records are retained in case of cargo claims	
Notify club correspondent at discharge port prior to arrival if cargo deterioration occurs	

¹ reject bags which are torn, stained, damp or in otherwise suspect condition

² Lay first layer in direction of the bilges, not more than 20 cms apart. Lay second layer at right angles to the first

³ For certain bagged cargoes, ventilation channels may be required by the IMDG Code (eg. some types of seed cake, fishmeal)

⁴ Dewpoint rule only. If following the three degree rule, record external air temperature and sea temperature once per watch