

PORT AUTHORITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



MEDIA RELEASE

Transport of Bitumen on the M.V. Cabo Star

The Management of the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to clarify statements made in the public domain on bulk shipment of bitumen via the M.V. Cabo Star.

The public is hereby advised that the dedicated cargo vessel, the M.V. Cabo Star, is the only vessel that can be used to transport International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG), which include bitumen and other hydrocarbons. These cargoes are transported in compliance with the existing Maritime Regulations that are in place to ensure the Safety of Life at Sea. The Regulations list various classes and quantities of cargo, and outlines how they may be transported on the vessel. These regulations also require reduced passenger occupancy when various IMDG cargoes are being shipped.

It should be noted that neither the Port Authority, nor its Strategic Business Unit (TTIT) can alter or upgrade any International Maritime Regulations/Codes.

Following a recent risk assessment on the vessel, the volume of certain IMDG goods allowed to be shipped (specifically bitumen) was significantly reduced, based on what was eventually determined to be a misinterpretation of the Regulations. This information was communicated by the crew on January 25, 2023, which resulted in the introduction of a reduced volume quota being shipped from January 25th, while Management sought consultation on the issue. All arrangements for the transport of IMDG cargoes must be made at least 48hrs prior to the sailing. The records of the Authority reveal that only one request was denied, while the issue was being addressed.

This matter has been satisfactorily resolved, and the quantities of cargoes that can be transported at any given time will remain in effect, that is, the same volumes that were permitted prior to the reduction. In this regard, all stakeholders can continue to arrange for the transport of such cargoes on the M.V. Cabo Star, by contacting the TTIT Health and Safety Department, at the Port of Spain Ferry Terminal Building.