Lloyd's List Intelligence

The Authority
Maritime Intelligence



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FS 786170

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Technical Cargo Surveying

Sample Questions

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Scenario

You are appointed on behalf of cargo interests to inspect a consignment of Cocoa Beans which have arrived at final destination in a wet condition.

The consignment consisted of 5 x containers (20ft) each containing 1000 bags. The cargo was being shipped from to Liberia to Antwerp for use in the chocolate industry.

Total consignment consisted of 5000 bags each weighing 20kg (gross weight). (Net weight is 19.5kgs)

At the time of your survey attendance, the containers had already left the premises and the cargo had been placed in the warehouse awaiting inspection.

You were informed by receiving personnel that in addition to a number of bags being wet, on arrival of the containers and during destuffing, it was found that some bags which were stowed adjacent to the container floor had reportedly been found to be torn and slack with contents having spilled onto the container floor.

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Sample Question 1

What questions would you ask of the receiving personnel who were present on receiving the containers?

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What questions would you ask of the receiving personnel who were present on receiving the containers?

Answer:

- Ask personnel to provide detailed information on how the cargo was received ie Outward physical condition of containers (was there any holes seen), condition of cargo/bags at the time of receipt, any photographs taken, was receipt documentation endorsed, was any joint inspection conducted?
- Were all bags similarly affected ie the same in all containers? If not, were the affected cartons in a specific area within the container ie near the door or container floor?
- With regard to the damaged/split bags, where were these located in the container, what had been done with the spilled beans?
- Are they aware of where the empty containers had been taken to?

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Sample Question 2

Please detail what documents you would request?

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Sample Question 2

Please detail what documents you would request?

Answer:

- Insurance Certificate, if available
- Bill of Lading
- Customs documentation
- Commercial Invoice
- Packing List
- Delivery Note/Receipt documentation
- Claim lodged against the carrier
- Equipment Interchange Receipt or similar document
- Any pre-shipment inspection done on condition of the beans?
- Any analysis/testing done on the beans prior to shipment?

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Sample Question 3

How would you ascertain the cause of damage?

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Sample Question 3

How would you ascertain the cause of damage?

Answer:

- Locate the empty containers and conduct an inspection including a light test/watertight test.
- Outwardly inspect the outer bags for evidence of water staining.
- Conduct a silver nitrate solution test to ascertain if fresh/rain or sea water.
- With regard to the torn bags, investigate whether there was any fortuity during transit ie heavy weather or if there was any outward damage to the containers which would account for the bags becoming torn.
- As torn bags were found to be adjacent to the container floor, discuss packing method and method of stow within the container as this could be an import factor.

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Sample Question 4

How would you ascertain the extent of the damage?

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Sample Question 4

How would you ascertain the extent of the damage?

Answer:

- Open bags taken at random to ascertain the extent of wetting.
- Inspect contents and take samples for potential analysis.
- Request consignees to segregate the wet cargo from sound.
- Keep very wet cargo separate from slightly wet cargo.
- Ascertain weights of wet cargo using a calibrated scale.
- With regard to the torn bags, inspect the contents from the spilled bags and note condition.

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Sample Question 5

What discussion would you have with consignees to assist with formulating their claim and minimising the loss?

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Sample Question 5

What discussion would you have with consignees to assist with formulating their claim and minimising the loss?

Answer:

- Wet damaged bags – discuss salvage and reconditioning options. As cargo was imported for the manufacture of chocolates, consignees may reject the wet bags as no longer being fit for human consumption. Investigate other options including selling the wet cargo for animal feed or other use.
- Investigate depreciation as some cargo may be damaged to a lesser degree.
- Torn/Split bags – ascertain the weight of the contents of spilled cargo.
- Discuss depreciation / auctioning.

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Conclusion

What not do to:-

- Assume that the person marking the exam knows what you are talking about.
- Do not use terms like “discuss with consignees the best way in which to mitigate their loss” – we need to know what you would discuss.
- Avoid saying “as the surveyor I would request all necessary documents” – we need to know which documents you would request.

What to do:-

•Put answers in bullet point so that it is clear.

•Explain your answers in detail – we would much rather have more information so we can judge if the correct procedures are being followed as opposed to limited information

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