

CARGO OVERFLOW

Incident Learning Sheet - August 2026

What Happened

Overflow from a cargo tank typically occurs during the start of cargo discharge operations due to a valve malfunction or incorrect valve operation.

Overflow may also occur during loaded passage due to reliquefaction plant or cargo pump operation.

Overfill protection system is often found to have been incorrectly configured.



Key Lessons

- Maintenance of key valves in the cargo system is essential
- Robust procedures for checking valve lineup during cargo operations and loaded passage is critical
- Alarm flooding can aggravate the situation
- Improved control room design can help to prevent incidents
- Good presentation of information on operator screens can help to prevent and mitigate incidents.
- Overfill protection system should be operated effectively

Ensure Safety Systems are Active

Further Information

The following publications are related to this topic:

- IMO - International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code)
- SIGTTO - Emergency Shutdown Systems
- SIGTTO - Recommendations for Valves on Liquefied Gas Carriers
- SIGTTO - Recommendations for Management of Cargo Alarm Systems
- SIGTTO - Recommendations for Cargo Control Room HMI
- SIGTTO - Recommendations for Designing Cargo Control Rooms