

JTSB Safety Recommendation to the APL MARITIME LTD.

(as the management company of the vessel)

February 18, 2021

Marine Accident of collision between
the Container Ship "APL GUAM", the Container Ship "MARCLIFF"
and the Container Ship "HANSA STEINBURG"
Occurred at Anchorage YL4, Yokohama Section 5, Keihin Port, Japan
on March 21, 2019

It is probable that the accident occurred when, as APL GUAM was proceeding north toward her planned anchorage and MARCLIFF was proceeding south-southeast toward the sea area west of Nakanose in Tokyo Bay at night within an anchorage of the Keihin Port Yokohama 5th District that had become confined with the presence of anchored vessels, and under conditions in which the courses of APL GUAM and MARCLIFF intersected between anchored vessel HANSA STEINBURG and another anchored vessel, APL GUAM and MARCLIFF collided and then MARCLIFF turned to port and proceeded southeast with headway and collided with HANSA STEINBURG because both vessels maintained course and speed until they approached each other, as APL GUAM's master and pilot predicted that MARCLIFF would turn to starboard and pass port-to-port and MARCLIFF's master predicted that APL GUAM would maintain course and speed and pass safely starboard-to-starboard.

Additionally, it is probable that, under conditions in which the course of each vessel intersected the course of the other and the danger of collision was rising, APL GUAM and MARCLIFF could have taken measures to avoid a collision, such as confirming each other's maneuvering intentions and promptly reducing speed, by communicating early by international VHF radio telephone (hereinafter referred to as "VHF"), and therefore it is probable that both vessels' continued navigation without communicating by VHF contributed to the accident's occurrence.

In view of the result of this accident investigation, the Japan Transport Safety Board recommends APL MARITIME LTD., which is the management company of APL GUAM, and MARCONSULT SCHIFFFAHRT GMBH, which is the management company of MARCLIFF, to take the following measures for the purpose of preventing the occurrence of a similar accident.

APL MARITIME LTD. and MARCONSULT SCHIFFFAHRT GMBH are recommended to instruct the masters, etc., of all vessels they manage or operate to consistently implement the following items.

- (1) Whenever possible, large vessels avoid situations in which they approach other vessels on intersecting courses in anchorages that have become confined with the presence of anchored vessels.
- (2) When they see another vessel approaching, masters immediately confirm maneuvering intentions with the other vessel by actively and appropriately engaging in VHF communication, rather than making decisions based on assumptions about the other vessel's movements.
- (3) Masters consider the circumstances of nearby navigating vessels and anchored vessels, make judgments on whether the possibility that other vessels may come extremely close or the risk of collision with the other vessel exists, and, when they judge that such a possibility or risk exists, take measures to avoid collision by promptly reducing speed, etc., while sufficient time is available.