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## **Advice Regarding Reefer Container Incidents**

**Notice to all Shipping companies and Masters**

*This MIN expires 19 October 2012*

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### **Summary**

The purpose of this MIN is to alert Masters and shipping companies of a number of incidents where the compressor unit on some reefer containers has exploded, apparently after being recharged with contaminated gas

It has been brought to our attention that a small number of incidents have recently occurred where the compressor unit on reefer containers has exploded. The reason for the failure of the compressor units is still unclear but it would appear that the system, after servicing, has been recharged or 'topped up' using contaminated gas.

A number of shipping companies are aware of the issue and are quarantining reefer units that they suspect contain contaminated refrigeration systems.

Masters are advised that before loading reefer units, they should ensure that, if the unit has been recently serviced, re-gassed or 'topped up', the unit has been inspected to ensure that it is safe to operate.

If the Master has concerns that there is a suspect reefer unit onboard, the shipper and shipping line should be contacted as a matter of urgency to determine the next course of action. The risk of an explosion is only believed to develop when the unit is in operation.

This Notice is directed to Ship-owners, Masters and Container Leasing Companies, but the issue has implications for Port Authorities and companies transporting and packing refrigerated containers whilst on land when the compressor unit is in use.

Any incidents involving such containers should be reported to the MCA on the number provided below.

## More Information

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