

IUMI urges caution over flexitanks

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The International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI) has warned proposals to increase the size of flexitanks needs to be very carefully reviewed amid fears that such a move may impact container safety and stability.

Flexitanks are effectively large plastic bags which contain fluids inside TEU containers.

The organisation's President Ole Wikborg said: "IUMI is very concerned by the proposal to be discussed at the IMO that flexitanks should be a standard 24 ton size.



"Loss prevention specialists insist that 18 tons is the maximum allowable weight, with 15 tons in more difficult waters."

A recent Germanischer Lloyd (GL) report demonstrates that container sides are irreparably weakened by the fluid pressure in flexitanks over 18 tons and can suffer catastrophic collapse as a result.

"IUMI would urge that, before any decision is taken, consideration is given to the GL findings as the proposed weight, if endorsed, will inevitably generate multiple avoidable losses," added Mr. Wikborg.