

(5) hatch coverings shall not be used in the construction of cargo stages or for any other purpose which may expose them to damage.

### Article 9

Appropriate measures shall be prescribed to ensure that no hoisting machine, or gear, whether fixed or loose, used in connection therewith, is employed in the processes on shore or on board ship unless it is in a safe working condition.

In particular,

(1) before being taken into use, the said machines, fixed gear on board ship accessory thereto as defined by national laws or regulations, and chains and wire ropes used in connection therewith, shall be adequately examined and tested, and the safe working load thereof certified, in the manner prescribed and by a competent person acceptable to the national authorities;

(2) after being taken into use, every hoisting machine, whether used on shore or on board ship, and all fixed gear on board ship accessory thereto as defined by national laws or regulations shall be thoroughly examined or inspected as follows:

(a) to be thoroughly examined every four years and inspected every twelve months: derricks, goose necks, mast bands, derrick bands, eye-bolts, spans and any other fixed gear the dismantling of which is specially difficult;

(b) to be thoroughly examined every twelve months: all hoisting machines (e.g. cranes, winches), blocks, shackles and all other accessory gear not included in (a).

All loose gear (e.g. chains, wire ropes, rings, hooks) shall be inspected on each occasion before use unless they have been inspected within the previous three months.

Chains shall not be shortened by tying knots in them and precautions shall be taken to prevent injury to them from sharp edges.

A thimble or loop splice made in any wire rope shall have at least three trucks with a whole strand of rope and two tucks with one half of the wires cut out of each strand; provided that this requirement shall not operate to prevent the use of another form of splice which can be shown to be as efficient as the form hereby prescribed.

(3) Chains and such similar gear as is specified by national laws or regulations (e.g. hooks, rings, shackles, swivels) shall, unless they have been subjected to such other sufficient treatment as may be prescribed by national laws or regulations, be annealed as follows under the supervision of a competent person acceptable to the national authorities:

(a) In the case of chains and the said gear carried on board ship:

(i) half inch ( $12\frac{1}{2}$  mm.) and smaller chains or gear in general use once at least in every six months;

(ii) all other chains or gear (including span chains but excluding bridle chains attached to derricks or masts) in general use once at least in every twelve months;