

“ATHARA” 28.01.2009 FIRE ON BOARD



On 28th January 2009, around 20 minutes after having left the port of Genoa, a fire brought on board the passenger ro/ro vessel “Athara” employed in liner service from Genoa to Porto Torres. Drenger fire system was immediately activated and fire apparently seemed to be under control in a few minutes. The vessel came back under her own power and she was safely berthed.

On vessel’s arrival in the Port of Genoa, with the intervention of Fire Brigade, who took control of fire fighting operations, actions were taken to definitely extinguish the fire, which indeed proved to be more difficult than expected with substantial increase in fire and smoke and the need of employing Fire Brigade emergency vehicles inside the garage deck with one boat on assistance. The fire was eventually extinguished. Passengers and vehicles were disembarked.

In the course of the investigations carried out by Fire Brigade it turned out not declared dangerous / flammable goods were on board some heavy vehicles/ semitrailers. It has also be reported that the Harbour Master Office in Genoa levied a fine to the road carries involved in the transport without declaration of dangerous / flammable goods against breach of dispositions provided for by Italian Navigation Code. The above rule provides for a fine to apply whenever “guns, ammunitions, explosives as well and flammable, noxious and dangerous substances are embarked on a ship or aircraft without giving the proper notices, thus causing danger to the ship the aircraft, passengers or cargo”.

We have been instructed to act on behalf of P&I Club and H&M Underwriters to investigate the casualty and protect Owners interests before Maritime Authority Inquiry and Criminal and Civil proceedings as well as to protect indemnity actions against the above identified road carriers.