

MEMBER ALERT

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DAMAGE TO PORT FACILITIES IN EGYPT

Following recent incidents of damage to fenders and quays at Alexandria and El Deikhela by vessels during berthing operations, Members are reminded that they may be held strictly liable for any damage to fixed or floating objects situated in the vicinity of these ports.

Allegations of damage are usually made when a vessel is ready to depart the berth, when it is difficult to repudiate the allegations and minimize the cost of any delay.

The Alexandria Port Authority tends to determine the extent of any such claim through a technical committee formed from various departments of the Authority, at considerable extra administrative cost and delay.

Local agents have therefore advised Members to take the following precautionary measures:

1. When a vessel is required to berth using fenders which have already suffered damage, and the damage remains extant, the Master is recommended, through local agents, to draw the attention of the Port Authority to the damage and record the details in the log, supported by photographic evidence.
2. The Master is also recommended to question the pilot on board his vessel concerning any known pre-existent damage to fenders or berths and, if appropriate, to take his statement as evidence.
3. Mooring operations should be strictly supervised to minimize contact with fenders and berths, bearing in mind that some berths at El Deikhela are not sheltered from the open sea, leaving vessels vulnerable to pitching on the berth.

For further information, please contact the Managers.....

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