

General Cargo Hui Feng Major Marine Occurrence

Executive Summary

At about 0745 hours on June 12, 2024, a Taiwan-flagged general cargo ship “HUI FENG”, official number 013083, with a gross tonnage 499, caught fire about 17.1 nautical miles southwest of the Port of Kaohsiung. The vessel’s wheelhouse, accommodation space, lifeboat deck, and engine room were severely fire-damaged. Three crew members sustained injuries. No environmental pollution resulted from the occurrence.

In accordance with the Taiwan's Transportation Occurrence Investigation Act and the Casualty Investigation Code of the International Maritime Organization, the TTSB is an independent transportation occurrence investigation agency responsible for conducting this investigation. The investigation team also included members from the Maritime and Port Bureau of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, the Harbor Fire Corps, the National Fire Agency, the Ministry of the Interior, and E-HUI Freight Co., Ltd.

After comprehensive investigation and analysis of the factual data, a total of 4 findings based on a comprehensive review of factual data and analysis.

The finding related to probable cause is follows:

1. The fire on the HUI FENG lasted for an extended period, severely damaging the vessel’s wheelhouse, accommodation spaces, and other areas. Additionally, no surveillance footage was available, resulting in a lack of clear evidence to determine the exact origin and cause of the fire. After examining and analyzing the available evidence, the wheelhouse, engine room, galley, and mess room were ruled out as potential locations for the fire.

The fire is suspected to have originated in a crew cabin on the accommodation deck. An electrical cause of the fire could not be ruled out.

The finding related to risk is as follows:

1. Fire detection systems were not installed in the accommodation of HUI FENG. Consequently, the crew was unable to detect the fire in its early stages, losing the opportunity for timely extinguishment.

The other findings are as follows:

1. According to the Regulations for Ship Equipment, it was not required to be equipped with a fire detection system on HUI FENG.
2. Three crew members sustained injuries. They were conscious and able to move on their own during the rescue. After receiving hospital treatment for several days, they returned home to recover and have since fully recovered.

Safety Recommendations

During the investigation, HUI FENG underwent an additional inspection by the Maritime and Port Bureau on March 14, 2025, in accordance with the Regulations for Vessel Inspections. E-HUI Freight Co., Ltd. has installed fire detectors in the engine room, galley, and accommodation areas of HUI FENG. CCTV systems have also been installed in the engine room and cargo hold, and can be monitored from the bridge. Therefore, no safety recommendations are issued in light of these proactive safety measures.

Note: The final report of this occurrence investigation is published in Chinese. To facilitate understanding for non-Chinese readers, the Executive Summary has been translated into English. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, discrepancies may occur. In the event of any inconsistency, the Chinese version shall prevail.