Ship Inspection and Audit Techniques

Cargo Handling Compliance Review

ABP – Advanced Bunker Plan. Related terms: fuel management, environmental compliance. The ABP outlines the procedures for bunkering, fuel quality verification, and documentation required to demonstrate compliance with MARPOL Annex VI. Example: A ship's ABP specifies the use of low-sulphur fuel in emission control areas and mandates the retention of bunker delivery notes for at least 24 months. Challenges include keeping the plan up-to-date with changing fuel standards and ensuring crew familiarity during audits.

AIS – Automatic Identification System. Related terms: vessel tracking, position reporting. AIS transmits a vessel's identity, position, speed, and cargo information to shore stations and other ships, providing data that auditors use to verify declared cargo routes. Example: During a compliance review, the auditor cross-checks AIS logs against the ship's cargo manifest to detect unauthorized detours. The main challenge is reconciling brief AIS gaps caused by satellite coverage loss.

ALCOA – Aluminum Cargo Operations Area. Related terms: hazardous cargo, segregation. The ALCOA designation marks zones where aluminum-bearing cargoes are handled, requiring specific protective measures to prevent corrosion of adjacent steel structures. Example: A vessel carrying aluminium ingots must isolate the ALCOA from the main deck to avoid galvanic reactions. Auditors often find inadequate signage, which can lead to non-compliance findings.

APM – Approved Port Management. Related terms: port state control, inspection authority. APM refers to the formal recognition of a port's capability to conduct ship inspections in line with IMO standards. Example: A ship entering a port with APM status can expect a streamlined cargo handling compliance review. The challenge lies in varying interpretation of APM criteria across jurisdictions.

ARC – Accident Reporting Code. Related terms: incident log, root-cause analysis. The ARC is a standardized coding system used to document cargo-related accidents, facilitating trend analysis and corrective action planning. Example: A cargo shift incident is logged under ARC-02, prompting a review of lashing procedures. Difficulty often arises in ensuring consistent coding by crew from different linguistic backgrounds.

ASME – American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Related terms: equipment certification, pressure vessel standards. ASME standards govern the design and maintenance of cargo handling gear such as cranes and winches. Example: A ship's cargo crane must bear an ASME stamp indicating compliance with load-testing requirements. Auditors frequently encounter outdated certificates, leading to non-conformities.

ATB – Authorized Transfer Bunker. Related terms: fuel transfer, certified personnel. An ATB is a designated facility or vessel authorized to receive or deliver fuel under strict monitoring. Example: During a compliance review, the presence of an ATB certificate validates the legitimacy of a fuel transfer operation. Challenges include verifying the ATB's own compliance status.

AVR – Average Vessel Rate. Related terms: performance metric, cargo turnover. AVR measures the average speed at which cargo is loaded or discharged per unit time, serving as a benchmark for operational efficiency. Example: An AVR of 0.8 Moves per hour indicates a sluggish loading process, prompting corrective measures. Auditors must ensure the data source is reliable and not manipulated.

BAF – Bunker Adjustment Factor. Related terms: fuel price index, charter rates. The BAF reflects fluctuations in bunker fuel costs and is applied to freight rates to maintain profitability. Example: A sudden rise in BAF may trigger a review of the ship's fuel consumption records to confirm accurate reporting. The primary challenge is correlating BAF adjustments with actual fuel usage documented during inspections.

BCF – Bulk Cargo Factor. Related terms: stowage coefficient, capacity utilization. The BCF quantifies the proportion of a vessel's volume that can be effectively utilized for bulk cargo, considering trim and stability constraints. Example: A BCF of 0.85 Suggests the ship can safely carry 85 % of its nominal bulk volume. Auditors assess whether the reported BCF aligns with the ship's actual loading plan.

BDM – Bunker Delivery Manifest. Related terms: fuel receipt, quality certificate. The BDM records the quantity, type, and quality of fuel supplied to a vessel, forming a key piece of evidence in a cargo handling compliance review. Example: The BDM must be retained for at least two years and be available for inspection. In practice, discrepancies between BDM entries and tank gauging logs are a common source of audit findings.

BER – Bunker Exhaust Regulation. Related terms: emission control, scrubber system. BER outlines permissible levels of sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides emitted from a vessel's engine exhaust. Example: Compliance with BER may require installation of an exhaust gas cleaning system (EGCS). Auditors verify BER adherence by reviewing exhaust gas analysis reports and maintenance records. The main challenge is ensuring the EGCS is operational during spot checks.

BHS – Bulk Handling System. Related terms: conveyor belt, hopper. The BHS comprises the equipment and procedures used to move bulk cargo from the hold to shore facilities. Example: A well-maintained BHS reduces cargo loss and contamination. During a compliance review, auditors inspect BHS components for wear, lubrication, and proper guarding. Common challenges involve outdated control systems that lack modern safety interlocks.

BLR – Ballast Load Ratio. Related terms: stability management, draft control. The BLR expresses the proportion of ballast water relative to total displacement, influencing vessel stability during cargo operations. Example: A BLR of 0.30 Indicates 30 % of the vessel's displacement is ballast, which may affect cargo loading sequences. Auditors verify BLR calculations against ballast water records and stability software outputs.

BMU – Bulk Material Unit. Related terms: tonnage, commodity type. The BMU defines a standardized measure for bulk cargo, facilitating consistent reporting across different ports. Example: A BMU of 1 tonne of iron ore is used in the cargo manifest. Auditors check that BMU declarations match physical sampling results. Inconsistencies can arise from moisture content variations.

BNF – Bunker Non-conformance Form. Related terms: deficiency report, corrective action. The BNF records any deviation from approved bunker procedures, such as incorrect fuel grade or missing documentation. Example: A BNF issued after a fuel quality test fails prompts immediate remedial measures. Auditors assess whether the BNF was closed within the stipulated timeframe and whether root-cause analysis was performed.

BOC – Bill of Cargo. Related terms: cargo manifest, freight invoice. The BOC summarizes all cargo items aboard a vessel, including weight, volume, and destination. Example: The BOC must reconcile with the ship's stowage plan before departure. During compliance reviews, auditors compare the BOC against the actual cargo discharged to detect misdeclaration or pilferage.

BRM – Bunker Receipt Manual. Related terms: record-keeping, audit trail. The BRM provides guidelines for documenting bunker fuel receipts, including required signatures and supporting documents. Example: A BRM-compliant receipt includes the supplier's certificate of analysis. Auditors often find gaps where receipts lack proper endorsement, leading to non-conformity citations.

BSM – Bulk Stowage Manual. Related terms: load plan, segregation matrix. The BSM details the recommended arrangement of bulk cargoes within holds, addressing stability, ventilation, and segregation requirements. Example: The BSM prescribes a 0.5 M separation between coal and grain to prevent cross-contamination. Auditors verify that the actual stowage matches the BSM recommendations and that any deviations are justified.

CAA – Cargo Authorization Agreement. Related terms: port clearance, customs permit. The CAA is a contract between shipowner and port authority granting permission to load, carry, or discharge specific cargoes. Example: A CAA for hazardous chemicals includes special handling instructions and emergency response procedures. Auditors check that the CAA is current and that the vessel adheres to its conditions throughout the voyage.

CAP – Cargo Acceptance Procedure. Related terms: pre-loading inspection, quality assurance. The CAP outlines the steps for verifying cargo condition before acceptance onto the vessel, including sampling, documentation, and visual checks. Example: A CAP for refrigerated goods mandates temperature monitoring from the moment of receipt. Auditors evaluate whether the CAP was executed and documented, noting any lapses that could affect cargo integrity.

CAR – Cargo Arrival Report. Related terms: discharge log, handover protocol. The CAR records the status of cargo upon arrival at the destination port, including any damage, moisture, or deviation from the manifest. Example: A CAR indicating “5 % moisture increase” triggers a review of the hold ventilation system. Auditors assess the completeness of the CAR and its alignment with the ship's own discharge records.

CAS – Cargo Assessment Survey. Related terms: pre-shipment inspection, risk assessment. A CAS is conducted by a qualified surveyor to determine the suitability of cargo for transport, considering factors such as packaging, weight distribution, and hazardous properties. Example: A CAS for lithium batteries includes checks for proper segregation and temperature control. Auditors often encounter insufficient documentation of CAS findings, leading to compliance gaps.

CBM – Cargo Bay Monitoring. Related terms: environmental sensors, temperature log. CBM involves continuous observation of conditions within cargo holds, using sensors to track temperature, humidity, and gas composition. Example: A CBM system alerts crew when humidity exceeds 70 % in a grain hold, prompting corrective ventilation. Auditors verify the calibration status of CBM equipment and the accuracy of logged data.

CCL – Cargo Containment List. Related terms: container inventory, seal numbers. The CCL enumerates all containers or bulk bags on board, detailing their identification numbers, contents, and sealing status. Example: A CCL entry for container "ABC1234" shows it is sealed with a high-security seal. Auditors cross-reference the CCL with the manifest and physical inspection to detect any missing or mismatched containers.

CDR – Cargo Damage Report. Related terms: incident documentation, insurance claim. The CDR documents any loss or damage to cargo occurring during handling, storage, or transport. Example: A CDR noting "pallet breakage" includes photographs, cause analysis, and remedial actions. Auditors assess whether the CDR was filed promptly and whether corrective measures were implemented.

CHP – Cargo Handling Procedure. Related terms: standard operating protocol, crew training. The CHP defines the step-by-step process for loading, securing, and discharging cargo, emphasizing safety and regulatory compliance. Example: The CHP for hazardous liquids mandates the use of double-walled hoses and grounding of containers. Auditors evaluate crew adherence to the CHP through observation and review of training records.

CIFF – Cargo Inspection Form – Final. Related terms: pre-departure checklist, audit evidence. The CIFF captures the final verification of cargo condition, securing that all inspections have been completed and signed off before sailing. Example: A completed CIFF includes signatures from the chief officer and the cargo surveyor. Auditors often find missing signatures, which constitute a finding.

CIP – Cargo Inspection Plan. Related terms: sampling schedule, risk matrix. The CIP outlines the frequency, methods, and responsible parties for inspecting cargo throughout a voyage. Example: A CIP for perishable goods schedules temperature checks every four hours. Auditors assess whether the CIP was executed as planned and whether deviations were justified.

CLM – Cargo Loading Manual. Related terms: load distribution, stability software. The CLM provides guidelines for arranging cargo to maintain vessel stability, avoid excessive shear forces, and meet segregation rules. Example: The CLM recommends loading heavy metal ores low in the hold to lower the centre of gravity. Auditors verify that the actual loading pattern aligns with the CLM recommendations.

CMR – Cargo Manifest Report. Related terms: customs declaration, freight documentation. The CMR is a comprehensive list of all cargo, including weight, volume, description, and consignee details, submitted to port authorities. Example: Discrepancies between the CMR and the on-board cargo tally can trigger a port state control inspection. Auditors scrutinize the CMR for completeness and accuracy.

COA – Certificate of Authorization. Related terms: operator licence, regulatory compliance. The COA validates that a ship or operator is authorised to carry specific cargo types, particularly hazardous materials. Example: A COA for transporting explosives requires adherence to IMO FSS Code provisions. Auditors check the validity dates and scope of the COA during compliance reviews.

COG – Cargo Operations Guide. Related terms: procedural handbook, crew reference. The COG consolidates all cargo-related procedures, emergency response actions, and contact lists into a single reference manual. Example: The COG includes a flowchart for spill containment of oil cargoes. Auditors evaluate the COG's availability on board and crew familiarity with its content.

CON – Cargo Observation Note. Related terms: field log, visual inspection. The CON records observations made by crew or surveyors during cargo handling, such as signs of moisture ingress or unusual odors. Example: A CON noting "visible condensation on grain" prompts immediate ventilation. Auditors verify that CON entries are contemporaneous and signed.

CPR – Cargo Performance Review. Related terms: KPIs, trend analysis. The CPR evaluates cargo handling efficiency, loss rates, and compliance outcomes over a defined period. Example: A quarterly CPR shows a 2 % reduction in cargo damage incidents after implementing a new lashing protocol. Auditors may request CPR data to assess continuous improvement.

CRD – Cargo Release Document. Related terms: discharge clearance, customs release. The CRD authorises the transfer of cargo from ship to shore, confirming that all regulatory and contractual conditions are satisfied. Example: A CRD signed by the chief engineer indicates that the hold has been cleaned and is ready for the next cargo. Auditors check the CRD for proper signatures and compliance stamps.

CSM – Cargo Safety Manual. Related terms: risk mitigation, emergency procedures. The CSM outlines safety measures for handling specific cargoes, including personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements and fire-fighting strategies. Example: The CSM for chemical tankers mandates the use of chemical-resistant suits and goggles. Auditors assess whether crew members have the required PPE and training.

CTD – Cargo Transfer Documentation. Related terms: pipeline log, metering records. The CTD records the details of bulk liquid cargo transfers, including flow rates, volume transferred, and temperature corrections. Example: A CTD for crude oil includes a reconciliation of measured volume versus calculated volume after temperature adjustment. Auditors often discover mismatches due to uncalibrated flow meters.

CUC – Cargo Unloading Checklist. Related terms: discharge verification, post-operation audit. The CUC ensures that all steps required for safe and compliant cargo discharge are completed, such as venting, cleaning, and inspection. Example: The CUC includes a verification that all cargo hoses are flushed with water after discharge. Auditors review the completed checklist for completeness and signatures.

CVD – Cargo Verification Data. Related terms: sampling results, quality certificates. The CVD aggregates all data collected to verify cargo specifications, such as moisture content, density, and contaminant levels. Example: The CVD for a grain shipment shows moisture at 12 %, within the contract limit of 13 %. Auditors examine the CVD to confirm that cargo meets contractual and regulatory standards.

DAB – Dangerous Cargo Authorization Board. Related terms: hazard classification, approval process. The DAB reviews applications for transporting dangerous goods, ensuring that vessels meet all safety and segregation requirements. Example: A DAB decision permits the carriage of Class 3 flammable liquids after verifying the ship's fire-suppression system. Auditors may request DAB meeting minutes as evidence of compliance.

DAC – Discharge Acceptance Certificate. Related terms: receiver sign-off, cargo condition. The DAC is signed by the receiving party confirming that cargo has been received in the agreed condition. Example: A DAC for steel coils notes "no visible dents, moisture content acceptable." Auditors compare the DAC with the ship's discharge records to detect any unreported discrepancies.

DBM – Documented Bunker Management. Related terms: fuel tracking, logbook entry. DBM refers to the systematic recording of all bunker-related activities, from ordering to consumption, ensuring traceability. Example: A DBM system logs each bunker delivery with date, quantity, and supplier details. Auditors evaluate the DBM for completeness and for any gaps that could conceal fuel theft.

DCI – Discharge Cargo Inspection. Related terms: post-discharge survey, quality check. The DCI is performed after cargo is off-loaded to verify that it matches the manifest and is free from damage. Example: A DCI on a container of electronics confirms that all units are intact and that temperature logs remained within limits. Auditors assess whether the DCI report is filed promptly and includes all required signatures.

DDM – Double-Deck Manifest. Related terms: layered cargo, stowage plan. The DDM records cargo placed on two levels within a single hold, detailing the weight distribution between decks. Example: A DDM for a hold containing coal on the bottom deck and limestone on the upper deck ensures proper segregation. Auditors check that the DDM matches the physical arrangement and that stability calculations account for the double-deck configuration.

DEM – Deviation Exception Memo. Related terms: non-conformance, mitigation plan. The DEM documents any deviation from approved cargo procedures, providing justification and corrective actions. Example: A DEM issued for a delayed loading window explains the cause and outlines a revised stowage plan. Auditors scrutinize DEMs for timely issuance and closure.

DFR – Draft Forecast Report. Related terms: hydrostatic calculation, loading sequence. The DFR predicts the vessel's draft at various stages of cargo loading, assisting in planning to avoid excessive draught in shallow ports. Example: A DFR indicates that loading the final 5 % of cargo will increase draft by 0.4 M, staying within port limits. Auditors verify that actual draft measurements align with the DFR projections.

DGK – Dangerous Goods Kit. Related terms: spill containment, emergency equipment. The DGK contains tools and materials needed to manage incidents involving hazardous cargo, such as absorbents, neutralizing agents, and protective suits. Example: A DGK aboard a chemical tanker includes a fire-extinguishing foam specific to the cargo's class. Auditors inspect the DGK for completeness, expiry dates, and accessibility.

DGL – Dangerous Goods List. Related terms: hazard classification, regulatory reference. The DGL enumerates all hazardous cargoes aboard, specifying UN numbers, packing groups, and required handling precautions. Example: The DGL entry for "UN 1203 – Gasoline" includes segregation distance and ventilation requirements. Auditors cross-check the DGL against the ship's cargo manifest and the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code.

DLR – Discharge Loading Ratio. Related terms: turn-around time, efficiency metric. The DLR compares the volume of cargo discharged to the time taken, serving as a performance indicator for port operations. Example: A DLR of 0.75 Moves per hour suggests a relatively efficient discharge process. Auditors may use DLR data to benchmark vessel performance against industry standards.

DMR – Damage Mitigation Report. Related terms: corrective action, preventive maintenance. The DMR outlines steps taken to address cargo damage identified during inspection, detailing repairs, re-stowage, or compensation measures. Example: A DMR after a cargo shift includes re-securing procedures and a follow-up inspection schedule. Auditors verify that the DMR is implemented and that subsequent inspections confirm resolution.

DNS – Documentation and Notification System. Related terms: electronic filing, regulatory reporting. The DNS automates the submission of cargo-related documents to authorities, providing timestamps and audit trails. Example: The DNS sends an electronic Bunker Delivery Note to the port authority upon fuel receipt. Auditors assess the integrity of the DNS logs and verify that all required documents were transmitted.

DPB – Double-Purpose Bunker. Related terms: fuel dual-use, energy source. A DPB refers to fuel that can serve both as propulsion fuel and as a source for auxiliary power generation, often requiring specific handling to prevent contamination. Example: A DPB must be stored in dedicated tanks with dedicated pumps to avoid mixing with non-DPB fuel. Auditors verify segregation and labeling of DPB tanks.

DRM – Discharge Re-manifest. Related terms: cargo amendment, manifest update. The DRM is issued when cargo quantities or descriptions change during discharge, ensuring that the final manifest reflects the actual cargo delivered. Example: A DRM for a container that was found damaged and returned to the ship updates the manifest accordingly. Auditors check that the DRM is filed before the vessel departs the port.

DSC – Documentation of Stowage Compliance. Related terms: stowage verification, segregation check. The DSC records evidence that cargo was stowed according to the approved plan, including photographs, crew signatures, and sensor data. Example: A DSC for a hazardous cargo hold includes a photo of the ventilation arrangement. Auditors review the DSC for completeness and for any noted deviations.

DTI – Dry-Tank Inspection. Related terms: leak testing, structural integrity. The DTI is a systematic examination of cargo tanks that carry dry bulk, checking for corrosion, cracks, and proper sealing. Example: A DTI performed before loading iron ore verifies that tank coatings are intact. Auditors assess DTI reports for thoroughness and for any corrective actions taken.

DTC – Dangerous Cargo Transfer Certificate. Related terms: hand-over document, regulatory compliance. The DTC authorises the movement of hazardous cargo between vessels or between a vessel and shore facilities, confirming that all safety measures are in place. Example: A DTC for the transfer of liquefied petroleum gas includes a risk assessment and emergency response plan. Auditors examine the DTC for signatures, expiry dates, and alignment with the IMDG Code.

ECA – Emission Control Area. Related terms: fuel sulphur limit, scrubber requirement. The ECA designates sea zones where stricter emission standards apply, mandating the use of low-sulphur fuel or exhaust gas cleaning systems. Example: A ship operating in the North Sea ECA must comply with a 0.10 % Sulphur limit. Auditors verify fuel receipts and EGCS performance records to confirm ECA compliance.

ECM – Emergency Cargo Management. Related terms: spill response, contingency plan. The ECM outlines procedures for handling cargo emergencies, such as leaks, fires, or exposure to hazardous substances. Example: The ECM for a vessel carrying ammonia includes immediate isolation, evacuation, and notification of local authorities. Auditors test ECM readiness through drills and examine after-action reports.

EDM – Electronic Documentation Management. Related terms: digital archive, e-signature. The EDM system stores all cargo-related documents in a searchable electronic format, reducing reliance on paper records. Example: The EDM retains the Bunker Delivery Manifest, cargo manifests, and inspection reports for a minimum of five years. Auditors assess the EDM's security controls and audit trail functionality.

EFM – Energy Fuel Monitoring. Related terms: consumption tracking, efficiency analysis. The EFM tracks fuel usage per cargo operation, helping identify inefficiencies in loading or discharge processes. Example: An EFM report shows higher fuel consumption during ballast voyages due to sub-optimal trim. Auditors may request EFM data to evaluate whether fuel usage aligns with operational plans.

EHS – Environment, Health, and Safety. Related terms: risk assessment, compliance program. The EHS framework integrates environmental protection, occupational health, and safety measures into cargo handling activities. Example: An EHS audit reviews the adequacy of personal protective equipment for handling hazardous chemicals. Auditors focus on both procedural compliance and actual practice.

ELM – Equipment Loading Manual. Related terms: machinery specification, installation guide. The ELM provides detailed instructions for installing and operating cargo-handling equipment, such as cranes, conveyors, and pumps. Example: The ELM for a self-elevating crane includes load charts and wind-speed limits. Auditors verify that equipment is used within the parameters set out in the ELM.

EMC – Emergency Management Coordinator. Related terms: incident commander, response team. The EMC is the designated officer responsible for overseeing emergency response actions related to cargo incidents. Example: During a chemical spill, the EMC activates the Emergency Cargo Management plan and coordinates with shore authorities. Auditors evaluate the EMC's training records and response effectiveness.

EMS – Emissions Monitoring System. Related terms: exhaust analysis, continuous monitoring. The EMS records real-time data on pollutant emissions from the vessel's engines and auxiliary generators. Example: An EMS reading of 0.08 % SO_2 demonstrates compliance with the ECA limit. Auditors may request EMS data logs and calibration certificates to verify accuracy.

EPD – Environmental Performance Data. Related terms: sustainability reporting, carbon footprint. The EPD aggregates metrics such as CO_2 emissions per ton of cargo moved, fuel consumption, and waste generation. Example: The EPD for a bulk carrier shows a reduction of 5 % in CO_2 per voyage after implementing a hull-cleaning program. Auditors may use EPD to assess the vessel's environmental stewardship.

EQC – Equipment Quality Certificate. Related terms: manufacturers' approval, inspection report. The EQC verifies that cargo-handling equipment meets design specifications and has passed factory acceptance testing. Example: A crane's EQC must be renewed every five years. Auditors check the EQC's validity and any recorded deficiencies.

ERC – Emergency Response Coordination. Related terms: incident command system, communication protocol. The ERC defines the hierarchy and communication channels for managing cargo-related emergencies. Example: The ERC chart lists the chief officer as the primary contact for a fire in a hazardous cargo hold. Auditors may conduct tabletop exercises to gauge the effectiveness of ERC.

ESA – Environmental Surveillance Audit. Related terms: regulatory inspection, compliance verification. The ESA examines a vessel's adherence to environmental regulations, including waste management and emission controls. Example: An ESA may include sampling of bilge water for oil content. Auditors performing an ESA focus on documentation, sampling methods, and corrective actions.

ETC – Estimated Time of Completion. Related terms: project scheduling, operation planning. The ETC predicts when a cargo-handling operation will finish, allowing coordination with shore services and berth allocation. Example: An ETC of 12 hours for loading a bulk carrier assists the port in planning berth turnover. Auditors compare actual completion times against the ETC to assess planning accuracy.

FAL – Freight Acceptance Letter. Related terms: contract confirmation, cargo receipt. The FAL is issued by the charterer confirming receipt of cargo and its condition, often serving as proof for payment. Example: A FAL signed after unloading grain notes “moisture within contract limits.” Auditors verify that the FAL aligns with the ship’s discharge records.

FCA – Fuel Consumption Audit. Related terms: performance review, energy efficiency. The FCA evaluates fuel usage against benchmarks, identifying anomalies that may indicate leaks, theft, or inefficiencies. Example: An FCA reveals a 15 % higher fuel burn during ballast compared to similar vessels. Auditors may recommend corrective actions such as hull cleaning or engine tuning.

FCL – Full Container Load. Related terms: containerized cargo, load factor. The FCL term describes shipments where a container is filled to capacity, often subject to specific stowage and documentation requirements. Example: An FCL of refrigerated containers mandates temperature monitoring throughout the voyage. Auditors examine the temperature logs to ensure compliance with the cargo’s specifications.

FCR – Fuel Consumption Report. Related terms: logbook entry, fuel analysis. The FCR details the quantity of fuel burned during each phase of a voyage, supporting verification of bunker receipts. Example: The FCR for a voyage from Rotterdam to Singapore shows fuel consumption of 1,200 tonnes. Auditors cross-reference the FCR with the Bunker Delivery Manifest to detect discrepancies.

FDI – Fuel Delivery Inspection. Related terms: quality assurance, sampling protocol. The FDI is performed at the time of bunkering to verify fuel grade, temperature, and cleanliness. Example: An FDI includes taking a sample for sulphur content analysis. Auditors may request the FDI report to confirm that fuel specifications were met.

FHF – Fire Hazard Factor. Related terms: risk rating, flammability index. The FHF quantifies the fire risk associated with a particular cargo, influencing segregation distances and fire-fighting resources. Example: A FHF of 3 for a cargo of diesel indicates a moderate fire hazard, requiring standard fire suppression equipment. Auditors check that the FHF is correctly applied in the cargo safety manual.

FLA – Freight Loading Agreement. Related terms: charter party, cargo terms. The FLA outlines the responsibilities of shipowner and charterer regarding cargo loading, including timing, stowage, and penalties for delays. Example: A FLA may stipulate that loading must be completed within 48 hours of berthing. Auditors verify that both parties adhered to the agreement during the cargo handling process.

FLP – Freight Loading Plan. Related terms: stowage diagram, load sequencing. The FLP maps out the order and location of cargo loading to optimize balance and minimize handling time. Example: The FLP for a container ship schedules heavy containers low and aft to improve stability. Auditors compare the FLP with the actual stowage to identify deviations.

FMA – Fuel Management Agreement. Related terms: bunker contract, price clause. The FMA defines the terms under which fuel is supplied, including quality standards, delivery schedules, and pricing mechanisms.

Example: An FMA may include a clause for price adjustment based on the Bunker Adjustment Factor. Auditors check that fuel deliveries match the FMA specifications.

FMC – Freight Manifest Control. Related terms: document verification, audit trail. The FMC process ensures that all freight manifests are accurate, authorized, and retained for regulatory inspection. Example: The FMC requires a double-signature on each manifest page. Auditors assess the FMC process for gaps that could allow fraudulent cargo declarations.

FPI – Fuel Performance Index. Related terms: efficiency metric, benchmarking. The FPI compares actual fuel consumption against a theoretical baseline, highlighting areas for improvement. Example: A FPI of 0.92 Indicates that the vessel uses 8 % more fuel than the baseline. Auditors may recommend operational changes based on FPI analysis.

FRC – Freight Release Certificate. Related terms: cargo handover, customs clearance. The FRC authorises the release of cargo to the consignee after all regulatory and contractual conditions are satisfied. Example: An FRC signed by the chief engineer confirms that the cargo hold has been cleaned and is ready for the next cargo. Auditors verify the FRC's authenticity and completeness.

FSC – Fuel Sampling Certificate. Related terms: quality control, lab analysis. The FSC provides evidence that fuel samples were taken and analyzed according to standards. Example: An FSC for a bunker delivery includes the sulphur content result and the laboratory's accreditation. Auditors often look for FSCs to confirm fuel quality compliance.

FSL – Freight Stowage Log. Related terms: load record, position tracking.