The smarter solution for CARGO HOLD CLEANING
The challenges of cargo hold cleaning

As shipping increases in scale – both the volume of seaborne trade and the vessels themselves – the pressure on shipowners and operators to become more efficient is growing even more intense. Timing is critical. Your vessels are only earning while they are at sea. This means that time in port must be kept to an absolute minimum and frequent turnarounds between cargoes have to be fast and efficient. Seen in this context, the hold cleaning that takes place between cargoes is pivotal.

To complicate the picture, the process of cargo hold cleaning is now more closely regulated than ever before. Any cleaning agents that may be discharged with waste water after cleaning must not be harmful to the environment. Which means that the cleaning agents have to be both effective and compliant with current regulations, notably Marpol Annex V.

The consequences of non-compliance can be costly. Vessels may be held in port or put to anchor until surveyors are satisfied that regulations have been met. So it’s essential to take a thorough approach to cleaning in order to avoid claims for cargo loss, cargo contamination, additional survey costs and delays to ships.

As if the task of cargo hold cleaning wasn’t challenging enough. The larger bulk vessels become, the more difficult the cleaning process. Clearing large areas of cargo residues, with difficult access, no hot water and limited opportunity to prepare surfaces will always be a challenge for cleaning crews.

And yet, the continuing pressure to optimise resources has led to a reduction in crew numbers. It is now usual for cargo hold cleaning to be undertaken by non-specialists. Still, cleaning must always be carried out in accordance with health and safety regulations, and full compliance maintained.

Traditionally, cleaning solutions for cargo hold areas are sourced from multiple suppliers around the world. The result could be a mix of different products and user instructions in various languages – not an ideal situation. This is where a standardised solution can offer clear advantages.

It’s here that Wilhelmsen Ships Service (WSS) can help. Our Unitor range provides you with a total cargo hold cleaning solution - including standardised, high quality cleaning products and equipment, along with all the necessary instructions and training materials to ensure proper use. Available worldwide through our global supply network, our hold cleaning solutions are easy to use for your crew and as important, will keep you fully compliant with all required regulations.

We make cargo hold cleaning less like hard work.
In direct response to the issues faced by the industry, WSS has developed a total solution to meet the challenges of cargo hold cleaning. This includes easy to operate equipment, combined with high-performance chemicals, all supported by clear documentation and literature, e-learning and demonstration videos.

Our cleaning solutions are designed to achieve the same ends every time – safe, simple cargo hold cleaning, reduced turnaround times in port and full compliance with all required regulations.

There’s a further benefit. Unitor cargo hold cleaning equipment can also be used for cleaning decks and superstructures – a versatility that removes the need for additional equipment and helps you keep costs down.

In addition to cleaning, we offer solutions for dealing with surface problems such as cargo stain and rust, rust scale and paint flaking, as well as unsanitary conditions and wetness.

Keeping pace with rapid cargo changeovers
Solutions for all cargo types

OILY CARGOES

Oily cargoes, such as petroleum coke or green delay petroleum coke, are very difficult to remove, especially where hot water isn’t available. These are testing conditions for the chemicals needed for removal. Unitor Aquatuff High Foam creates a dense foam that stops the cleaning solution running off vertical surfaces and so enhances the cleaning effect. It is a powerful water based cleaning agent and contains only biodegradable ingredients, so it does not harm the environment.

CEMENT OR CORROSIVE CARGOES

Removing dried cement can be a challenging and time-consuming task. To assist, WSS offers a range of high pressure cleaners which can be used as a supplement to the cargo hold cleaning kit for the effective removal of cement from cargo holds and decks. In most cases a product like the Unitor Metalbrite HD will give a good result, but where the residue is heavy we can supply a more powerful cleaning agent like Unitor Descaling Liquid.

FOOD CARGOES

Frequent changeovers between cargoes cause particular challenges when foodstuffs are carried. In this case, hold cleaning must be effective in order to avoid contamination from other cargoes. Here, treatment with Unitor Slip-Coat Plus can help. It creates a dense, temporary water resistant film on cargo hold surfaces, acting as a barrier between the cargo and the hold walls and allowing for more effective cleaning between loads. And of course, it’s safe to use, for crew and for the environment.

The Unitor Slip-Coat range can also be applied on the superstructure and decks to prevent cement and other cargo residues from sticking, making loading, discharging and cleaning easier.

In addition the Slip-Coat Plus can also be used when carrying corrosive cargo due to it’s ability to protect the surface from corrosion.
A complete solution for hold cleaning, end-to-end
PREPARATION

To ensure that the correct cleaning processes are carried out every time, WSS offers clear, easy-to-use instructions and documentation as well as e-learning programmes and direct training sessions with your crew.

Using a standardised solution like the Unitor cargo hold cleaning kit helps, as the products supplied to your cleaning crews will always be the same, wherever they are in the world.

It’s this combination of standardised chemicals and equipment, and supporting documentation that means you can be confident your cleaning processes will always be effective and in full compliance with all regulations.

In addition, you can call on our global network of trusted port representatives for advice on hold cleaning procedures, chemicals and related regulations any time.

CLEANING

This step includes the mechanical and manual removal of residual cargo, the washing of the cargo hold, and the sampling of wash water, as required by permit. At this stage, you need to know you have the right equipment and products on board and that your crew know how to operate them.

With the Unitor cargo hold cleaning kit, you can be certain. Everything you need comes in a self-contained kit, ready to use, easy to assemble and with clear and comprehensive instructions. The equipment is ergonomically designed for ease of use and to reduce physical demands upon the operator. It’s also easy to manoeuvre, improving access around the vessel and transfer from ship to ship. And, it allows you to work from the tank top without the need for scaffolding and lifts, which means safer operations for your crew in accordance with MLC regulations.

The cleaning chemicals themselves are specifically formulated for this type of task. They are highly effective and fit-for-purpose, helping you to keep cleaning costs to a minimum. And they are supported by safety data sheets to ensure correct use and account for the health and safety of your crew.

This combination of high performance cleaning products and equipment makes for a hold cleaning solution that’s faster, safer and more cost effective.

PROTECTION

After cleaning, you need to know that your cargo holds are in good condition and protected from the next cargo. Unitor Slip-Coat Plus, our newly-developed temporary hold coating has a strong resistance towards cargo residues and allows for more effective cleaning after every discharge. The protective film also helps to preserve hold surfaces making the coating last longer and so reducing your maintenance and repair costs. The protection against corrosion that Slip-Coat Plus provides also help you to keep your holds in shape longer. As important, your next cargo change-over will be faster and smoother.
ONE COMPLETE SOLUTION

WSS offers a single, total solution for all your cargo hold cleaning needs – including equipment, chemicals and all necessary documentation. Through our global agency network we provide a complete range of agency services to support your port calls including sourcing, delivery and management of cargo hold cleaning operations.

STANDARDISATION BRINGS CERTAINTY

Compliance is all about consistency. With the standardised solution supplied by Unitor, all cleaning products and processes will be the same every time, no matter who carries out the task. So you can be sure your vessels remain fully compliant.

SAFETY, THE FIRST PRIORITY

Unitor cleaning products and equipment are fully supported to ensure safe cleaning operations every time. Our standardised solutions are backed up by detailed documentation - user manuals, safety data sheets, chemical selector guides, e-learnings and demonstration videos, as well as direct crew training. Extra support is also available from our experienced technical team. For further protection, WSS offers a range of personal protection wear for cleaning operations.

AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE

Changes of routes, destinations and cargo types happen frequently and all complicate planning. But you can always rely on WSS to make certain you have the equipment and chemicals you need, where you need them at strategically important bulk ports around the world.

PREDICTABLE COSTS

With Unitor’s standardised hold cleaning solution, you know exactly what to expect when it comes to costs. The cleaning products are made for purpose and highly concentrated for more cost effective cleaning. Equipment is low-maintenance and durable, and therefore more cost effective in the long run. And, you are less likely to incur costs by failing to pass hold surveys. WSS also offers standardised agency pricing and port cost estimates.

SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT

Through our 24/7 customer service centres, we ensure streamlined processes for cargo changeovers in port - all coordinated efficiently through the WSS global network. We can combine a range of services during your port call including ships agency, supply of cleaning equipment and chemicals, as well as maintenance and repair products, technical and logistics services.
OPTIMISING PERFORMANCE

CARGO HOLD CLEANING

DONE BETTER