To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: UKRAINE – WARNING OF FRAUDULENT ECOLOGICAL INSPECTIONS

Date: 31 August 2016

The Britannia P&I Club has issued the following warning regarding fraudulent ecological inspections occurring in the Ukrainian ports of Odessa and Ilyichevsk:

Correspondents in Odessa have warned of people pretending to be ecological inspectors threatening ships in the ports of Odessa and Ilyichevsk.

There were two (2) cases last week when ecological inspectors, using fraudulent and unlawful means, tried to make the masters of the ships give them samples of segregated ballast. In both cases the masters refused but the inspectors then attempted to intimidate them by threatening to come back with the police. These threats had no basis in law and were obviously blackmail attempts.

Operators should be aware of these cases and the advice from the local correspondents is that masters should not allow any people posing as ecological inspectors to take samples of the ballast. They should also not hand over any ship’s documents dealing with the ballast operation. If there is any argument or any threats from any inspectors shipowners are advised to contact their local correspondent and also inform the ship’s agents straight away.