

Marine safety investigations & reports

Grounding of the bulk carrier *Bulk India* during departure from Dampier, Western Australia, on 11 March 2018

Investigation number:

341-MO-2018-004

Status: Active



Phase: Final report: Internal review

Updated: 11 March 2020

The investigation into the grounding of the bulk carrier *Bulk India* during departure from Dampier, Western Australia, on 11 March 2018 is continuing.

The investigation report is currently in the 'Final report: Internal review' phase. Final ATSB investigation reports undergo a rigorous internal review process to ensure the report adequately and accurately reflects the evidence collected, analysis, and agreed findings of the Safety Factor Review. Final investigation reports also undergo other technical and administrative reviews to ensure the reports meet national and international standards for transport safety investigations.

If a review identifies any issues with a report, such as information that needs to be expanded or findings that need to be modified, investigators will look to collect new evidence or conduct additional examination and analysis of existing evidence.

ATSB investigators have so far gathered and analysed information from multiple sources, including:

- Ship operator critical equipment identification and associated processes (including maintenance and spare parts)
 - Shipboard bridge procedures, including for port arrival and departure and pilotage
 - Port risk management arrangements, processes and procedures
 - Pilot organisation pilotage and emergency response procedures
 - Port towage arrangements.
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Initial summary

The ATSB is investigating the grounding under pilotage involving the Panama-registered dry bulk carrier *Bulk India* during departure from Dampier, Western Australia on 11 March 2018.

On 11 March, 2018, the fully laden *Bulk India* was departing Dampier under the conduct of a Dampier harbour pilot. At about 1430 hours (local time, UTC +8 hours), as the ship was approaching channel marker No5, a full electrical blackout occurred. All power was lost to the ship's propulsion and also to steering.

At the time, the pilot was giving course directions to the helmsman. The helm was at 20° Port when control was lost. The ship, no longer under power, turned to port and grounded at a speed

of about 6 knots. The Dampier Vessel Traffic Service was contacted and additional tugs requested for assistance.

At 1445, three tugs arrived. At 1449, electrical power was restored and by 1600, *Bulk India* was free of the bottom. The ship was then taken to anchorage for further inspection and investigation.

As part of the investigation, the ATSB will obtain information and recordings from the ship, company and pilots, and will interview directly involved parties as appropriate.

A report will be released at the end of the investigation. Should a critical safety issue be identified during the course of the investigation, relevant parties will be immediately notified so that appropriate safety action can be taken.

General details

Date:	11 March 2018	Investigation status:	Active
Time:	1430 WST	Investigation level:	Defined
Location (show map):	Dampier	Investigation phase:	Final report: Internal review
State:	Western Australia		
		Occurrence category:	Incident
Report status:	Pending	Highest injury level:	None
Anticipated completion:	3rd Quarter 2020		

Vessel details

Operator	Southern Route Maritime and Nissen Kaiun
Vessel	Bulk India
Flag	Panama
IMO	9284271
Sector	Bulk carrier
Type of operation	Iron ore
Damage to vessel	Unknown
Departure point	Dampier, Western Australia
Destination	Qingdao, Shandong, People's Republic of China

Last update 11 March 2020