



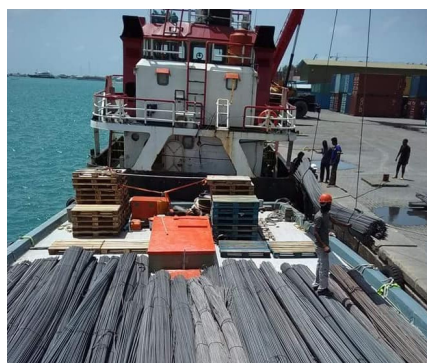
MLO'S WITHDRAW OCR SURCHARGE

All the Major Line Operators (MLO) in Maldives have announced the withdrawal of Operation Cost Recovery (OCR) surcharges for all inbound shipments to the Maldives, effective 1st November 2020. OCR surcharge was initially implemented due to increased port stay for container vessels berthing Male' Commercial Harbor.

However, along with the improvement of port stay from 6-8 days to 3-4 days, both feeder vessel operators in the Maldives, namely Lily Shipping and Trading and Nautical Maldives have notified the trade on removal of OCR charge. Subsequently, other MLO's including Centurion PLC (agents for MSC in Maldives) have revoked the OCR for all inbound shipments. Nevertheless, the situation will be monitored regularly by the vessel operators and MLO's, and OCR charge could be re-implemented if port stay for container vessels calling to Maldives increases significantly.



Photo: Maldives Ports Ltd



CARGO IMPORT AND EXPORT SEPTEMBER 2020 MALE' COMMERCIAL HARBOUR

IMPORT LADEN

20 FT CONTAINER	1568
40 FT CONTAINER	717
20 FT REEFER CONTAINER	47
40 FT REEFER CONTAINER	94

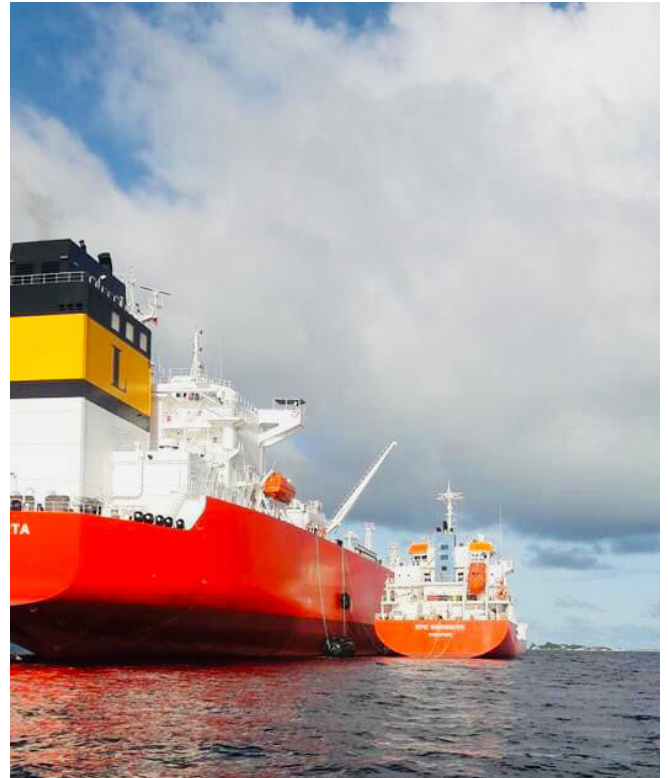
EXPORT LADEN

20 FT CONTAINER	96
40 FT CONTAINER	30
20 FT REEFER CONTAINER	9
40 FT REEFER CONTAINER	21

DEMAND FOR STS OPERATIONS INCREASES IN MALDIVES

Ships like oil tankers and gas carriers carry huge amount of cargo in bulk which does not have to be unloaded in just one port but at different ports. Even some carriers like VLCC and ULCC that are massive in size does not berth in port for discharge operation due to draught restrictions. In such condition ship to ship (STS) transfer is utilised, which refers to oil or gas cargo transfer between two merchant tanker vessels positioned alongside each other.

A ship to ship transfer becomes very economical as ship does not have to berth, especially for huge oil tankers, which removes the port berthing charges and reduces the time for berthing. But all these comes at a cost of high environmental pollution and fire risk, as chances of leakage in operation is always there in open sea when the ship is not moored. STS operation can be performed while ships are either at anchorage or underway. But it requires proper coordination, equipment and approval to perform such operation and both the masters of the ships are responsible for the entire STS operation.



As Maldives is located in the middle of the Indian Ocean where several ships pass through on route to various destinations, there is an increasing demand for STS operations in the country. Albereich International Pvt Ltd (Singapore & Maldives), have been carrying out several STS operations successfully in the Maldives for over 10 years with a proven track record serving many customers including oil & gas majors as well as commodity traders. They are an internationally established maritime company specializing in Ship to Ship (STS), cargo transfer operations, layup and ship care services. Albereich International maintains the highest levels of professional service, standards and safety, and have qualified marine advisors for pilotage and tug services, towage, salvage operations, marine superintendency, consultancy, cargo Inspection & survey.

Industry Professional

Interview of



Mr. Hiran Weeratunge

General Manager - Albereich International Pvt Ltd

When did you begin your career in the shipping industry, specifically in ship agency services and STS operations?

I started my marine industry work in 2007 as soon as I left the Plantation Industry after doing a service for 17 years.

Why is there an increasing demand for STS operations with several ships including VLGC, Aframax, Pressurized LPG Vessels calling to the Maldives?

The Maldives STS location is situated in very safe area surrounded by islands on the Indian ocean with easy access to Far East & Middle East. Although STS operations began in 2012, during 2014 we commenced STS operation for one of the major LPG supplier SIETCO Singapore & gradually increased from 10 to 15 STS per month up to the end of 2018. But afterwards the STS demand reduced due to poor Oil market condition & US/UN sanctions. Then again during 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic we were affected, now we are back to same track of the business & we believe 2021 will be a very prosperous year for STS.

What are the main safety precautions taken when carrying out STS operations, as it can be very dangerous and risky due to the hazardous materials involved?

Until 2009 there were no international regulations that explicitly told how these operations should have taken place. These operations are carried out according to the guidelines set out by the latest

Oil Companies International Marine Forum and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), with strict adherence to safety regulations. These are industry guidelines which are part of the contractual commitment between the ship owner and the STS Organizer (Charterer, Cargo Owner, Oil Major, etc.). According to International Maritime Organization regulation vessels transferring oil CARGO must have an approved STS operational manual that describes the procedure.

Lastly, what are the main services offered by Albereich International to the ships calling to the Maldives?

Albereich International offers various services including Ship to Ship Transfer Operations, Ship Agency Services, Protective Agency, Armguard Agency, Bunkering Services, Med-Evac, Ships Husbandry, Crew Change, Inspection Certification for Petroleum products, Stenching, Vessel Inspection, Fender Operation, Condition Survey, Tank Calibration, Bunker survey, and Off hire & On hire services.

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