

Short Term Vessel Lay-Up

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COVID-19 has created unprecedented social and commercial upheaval; we are truly in uncharted waters. While many maritime activities are essential to allow our country's supply chain to function, others in the marine industry have been adversely affected with operations severely limited or completely shut down.

Chubb is offering guidance on how to maintain the safety, security and protection of your vessel in order to preserve and maintain the hull and machinery while laid up, or temporarily out of use. The following represents recommendations designed for "Hot" Lay-Ups (e.g., periods of three months or less), although many of these are relevant for longer durations of inactivity.

- Select a berthing/mooring location that is sheltered from open seas, prevailing wind direction and force, waves and swells. Bear in mind local currents and tides and the potential for storms.
- If applicable, haul vessels out of the water for storage on land. Pay special attention to security measures that have been put into place, such as gates, security alarms, and cameras. Use a trailer hitch and wheel locks if storing the vessel on a trailer.
- Frequently monitor conditions via trusted weather forecasting outlets and respond accordingly.
- Note the vessel's proximity to navigation and other obstructions as well as to passing ship traffic and other berthed/moored vessels.
- Obtain details, availability and contact information of local authorities responsible for providing police, firefighting and safety services.
- Obtain details and emergency contact numbers of tugboat operators in the area.
- Berth/moor in a spot with sufficient water depth.

- Check lines and/or anchors regularly. Where practical, double up lines if the vessel will be unattended for a period of time. Consider designating a crew to be onsite on a rotational basis to look after the vessel, inspecting all important areas/functions. If onsite staff isn't an option, contract with a reputable watch service. You can also consider using GPS or cellular remote position monitoring of the vessel.
- If the vessel is berthed, place as many suitable fenders as is practical, and ensure ample lighting and a safe gangway is provided. Provide safe access for crew, maintenance and security staff.
- Conspicuously paint or highlight draft marks so any changes can be easily detected.
- Ensure all safety and security equipment (e.g., firefighting tools and alarms, lifesaving equipment, safety lights, security alarms, etc.) is fully tested and in good working order prior to lay-up. Maintain these essential items in operational condition throughout the lay-up period. Check their operation regularly.
- Remove all consumable and flammable materials such as chemicals, paint and gases.
- Ensure electricity supply is adequate during lay-up. Check shipboard circuits and shore power connectivity periodically.
- Ensure the watch crew has been trained on confined space entry if appropriate. Vessels at rest with no ventilation can develop areas where there is not enough oxygen to support life.
- Check machinery and equipment periodically.
- Turn rotating machinery regularly to prevent corrosion. Apply appropriate preservatives and lubricants.
- Close/cover all openings to prevent ingress of water or foreign material.
- Inspect the bilges to be certain they are clean and dry.
- Ensure bilge level water alarm is operational. If none is present, install a temporary system. Bilge pumps should be prepared for use. If the vessel will be unmanned, attach a mobile device to the bilge alarm so that it can contact the responsible parties and alert them that the vessel is taking on water.
- Arrange security measures and emergency procedures. Ensure that non-invited parties are not able to board the vessel to protect against attractive nuisance.
- Keep copies of emergency procedures, a communication "phone tree," and this document on board the vessel.
- Before placing the vessel back into service, conduct a thorough cleaning, including disinfecting and wiping down all hard surfaces.

Contact

For more information, please contact Chubb's Marine Risk Management Team at MarineRiskUS@Chubb.com.

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