

Loss Prevention Circular No. 15-05

## Amazon Region – Danger of Grounding

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We have received an urgent warning from our correspondents, Messrs. Williams Brothers Ltda, in Brazil advising us that the Amazon region is presently suffering from one of the worst droughts in years, resulting in unusually low water levels in local rivers. The water levels are predicted to sink further with the approaching summer season in the southern hemisphere.

In view of the increased risk of groundings, Members and ship's masters are advised to:

- Contact local agents for updates on the conditions in the relevant river before entering the area and thereafter at frequent intervals.
- Request the assistance of local pilots.
- Exercise extreme caution when navigating in the area at all times.
- Ensure that all possible precautionary measures are taken, including ensuring the vessel maintains a safe under keel clearance at all times, making allowances for ship squat and take appropriate action to avoid ship interaction and bank effect.
- Focus on the danger of cooling water intakes becoming clogged.

Members are also advised that any salvage operations in this area can be very expensive and time consuming due to the limited availability of equipment.

It has been reported that the drought conditions are so far not affecting other rivers in the area. However, we would like to emphasise the generally high level of attention required when trading in rivers and river delta areas.

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For more information regarding the Gard loss prevention products, please contact:  
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