

This document is a translation of the original assessment in Swedish by SHK of the response to the recommendation. In case of discrepancies between this translation and the Swedish original text, the Swedish text shall prevail in the interpretation of the assessment.

Wallenius Marine AB
Box 17086
104 62 STOCKHOLM

The Swedish Accident Investigation Authority's report RS 2019:02

On 28 March 2019, the Swedish Accident Investigation Authority (SHK) published its report (RS 2019:02) regarding a fire in the cargo hold of the car carrier MIGNON in the South China Sea on 4 April 2018.

The report contained a total of four recommendations, of which three were directed to Wallenius Marine AB (Wallenius Marine).

Recommendation RS 2019:02 R1

Wallenius Marine was initially recommended to reduce the risk of fire in vehicles being transported by taking fire prevention measures based on identified fire risks for each type of vehicle.

In its response to recommendations, Wallenius Marine has stated that inspections of used vehicles will be carried out to a greater extent before loading, in order to detect faults, which can entail the cargo being denied loading. SHK considers the expression "to a greater extent" to be relatively vague, as it can be used to describe both a very low and a slightly higher level of ambition. Furthermore, the response does not indicate whether the company has taken any fire prevention measures based on the identified fire hazards of various vehicle types, which was the recommendation. With this in mind, the recommendation can only be considered partly implemented and the response can only be deemed partially satisfactory.

Recommendation RS 2019:02 R2

Wallenius Marine was also recommended to develop procedures for loading of vehicles that allow the windows on the vehicles to be kept closed, in order to limit the spread of fire.

Wallenius Marine's response indicates that new general instructions will be introduced by the operator entailing that the windows will be closed during transport. Against this background, SHK finds that the recommendation has been implemented and the response is satisfactory in this part.

Recommendation RS 2019:02 R3

Wallenius Marine was lastly recommended to complete the work that has been initiated to improve the search team routines, set limits for what risks the team members are allowed to take, and provide adequate training for the team, so that its members are able to identify risks and determine a suitable protection level before taking action.

Wallenius Marine's response indicates that they have reviewed the procedures and instructions for on-board firefighting. The instructions have been revised and new procedures and exercises have been introduced to increase crew awareness when taking action. This involves exercises for the search team and the smoke divers on board. In view of the measures taken, SHK makes the assessment that the recommendation can be considered implemented and that the response received from Wallenius Marine is satisfactory.

Helene Arango Magnusson
Chair Accident Investigations