

October 28, 2011

Following the information Maersk Line provided via World Shipping Council, we have been able to collect samples from the unit that exploded in Itajai as well as gas samples from containers we have grounded and that have had gas repairs done in Vietnam. We are awaiting outcome of laboratory tests to determine what may have caused the explosion and the contents of the grounded units.

The investigations so far indicate that explosions have indeed been caused by a contaminated refrigerant being injected into the cooling system. This is supported by traces of Chloride being found on samples from the reefer in Itajai. We further believe that incorrect repair processes and procedures would not be able to cause the explosions. Work on developing a safe repair method as well as a device to detect contaminated Freon is ongoing and will be shared as soon as it is ready.

Maersk Line has decided to switch off and ground all reefers having had a repair in Vietnam between February 1 and up to today as a precautionary measure.

To ensure the investigations continue to progress, it is critical that all lines that have experienced issues with their reefers make this information available for all, so the correct conclusions can be made.