



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: June 22, 2016

In reply refer to: M-16-3

Mr. James Prazak
Chairman, Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee
Tricon International Ltd.
777 Post Oak Blvd, Suite 550
Houston, Texas 77056

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. We determine the probable cause of the accidents and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to assist victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On June 20, 2016, we adopted our report concerning the March 9, 2015, collision between bulk carrier *Conti Peridot* and tanker *Carla Maersk* in the Houston Ship Channel.¹ Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, www.nts.gov, under report number MAR-16/01.

As a result of this investigation, we issued three new recommendations, including one to the operating company of the *Conti Peridot* (Bremer Bereederungs-gesellschaft mbH & Co.), one to the Houston Pilots Association, and the following recommendation to the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee:

M-16-3

Develop predetermined ship movement strategies (considering options such as increased vessel separation, one-way traffic, and/or anchoring) to be implemented before or at the onset of hazardous weather conditions to enhance safety for vessels under way in the Houston Ship Channel.

¹ *Collision between Bulk Carrier Conti Peridot and Tanker Carla Maersk, Houston Ship Channel near Morgan's Point, Texas, March 9, 2015.* Marine Accident Report NTSB/MAR-16/01. Washington, DC.

Chairman HART, Vice Chairman DINH-ZARR, and Members SUMWALT and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.

The NTSB is vitally interested in this recommendation because it is designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement it. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov. If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,
Chairman