

Baltic Klipper loses 16 boxes overboard off UK coast

Some 16 containers were swept overboard from ship owned by reefer company Seatrade in heavy weather off the UK coast, coastguard recovery operations are ongoing.



Nick Savvides, Europe correspondent
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IMAGE: SEATRADE

Reefer shipping specialist Seatrade Group confirmed that its 522 teu *Baltic Klipper* has lost 16 containers overboard off the UK coast at about 18:00 local time on Saturday 6 December.

A number of the containers, five of which were empty, have washed up on the West Sussex coast, while others are said to be a navigational hazard in the seas around the UK's south-eastern coast.

Cor Radings, a spokesman for Seatrade Group, told Seatrade Maritime News: "She started rolling while she was heading for Portsmouth on Saturday [6 December] and that resulted in the loss of 16 boxes, five of which are empty."

According to Radings, the empties could constitute a navigational hazard and the company is working with the UK's Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) to recover the lost containers, at least five of which have reportedly washed up on the Selsey shoreline.

The 11 loaded containers were carrying mainly bananas and avocados to the UK, said Radings.

VesselsValue AIS tracking shows that Baltic Kipper departed Vlissingen, in the Netherlands, at around 22:00 on 5 December, heading for Portsmouth with an estimated time of arrival of 16:00 on 6 December.

Weather conditions off the Isle of Wight on 6 December showed powerful westerly winds gusting up to 62 mph between noon and 6pm.

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However, Radings would not be drawn on the causes of the accident, saying that the company is co-operating with the MCA investigation into the cargo loss.

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Experienced journalist working online, in monthly magazines and daily news coverage. Nick Savvides began his journalistic career working as a freelance from his flat in central London, and has since worked in Athens, while also writing fo...