

Maiden voyage of MV Star Courage from Durban port with grapefruit for Japan

FAISAL ASMAL & GLORIA WEARE CGA



The MV Star Courage is the latest new Break-bulk and container vessel that has been added to the Star Reefers Shipping Line fleet of Refrigerated cargo ships. The vessel has five Cargo Holds and four decks. Apart from the centre hold which is for non-refrigerated cargo and containers, the rest boast state of the art refrigeration. Fully loaded the MV Star Courage can take up to 5 720 pallets of Citrus fruit in its holds as well as 350 High Cubed Containers (both On and Under Deck).

On this particular voyage the vessel loaded a total of 5 717 pallets of Citrus Cargo + 40 High Cubed containers. The sailing time to Japan ex Durban port is ± 21 days including a stopover in Singapore for Bunkers and Fuel. The cargo as per the Japanese Protocol requirement was shipped at a temperature ± 0.6 degrees and cooler for a minimum of 12 days which in Citrus terms is known as the Steri process. The fruit temperature after 12 consecutive days of ± 0.6 and lower is then brought up to between +2 and + 4 degrees for the remainder of the voyage. South Africa has a DAFF Inspector based in Japan throughout the season to verify these stringent procedures in conjunction with the Japanese (MAFF) Officials for all Citrus Exports to Japan.

The vessel's Christening Cocktail party took place on-board the Star Courage at Fresh Produce Terminals (O.P Shed T Jetty) Durban Harbour on the 20th June at 12h00. The following role players were invited: FPT Terminal Management and staff; CGA Management and staff; PPECB Management and staff; clients and exporters; ZTS Labour Brokers; BLS Portco Ships Agents; DAFF (Department of Agriculture) and the ship's captain and crew.

Star Reefer owners Siem Shipping's Operations Manager Beverly McInally flew from London for the occasion. The welcoming and formalities were conducted by Ryan Madson and Steven Cadonna from BLS Portco which are the ship's agent here in Durban port. Hoosen Ahmed, the Terminal Manager for FPT, handed over a plaque

for the vessel's Maiden Voyage to the Captain and wished him and his crew all the best in their journeys aboard the Star Courage.

There was a festive atmosphere during the mingling of guests and it was an historic moment for the citrus industry. After the drinks, eats, presentations and speeches the guests parted regretfully - work has to carry on and time is money as the saying goes . . .

On the 23rd June at 18h00 the Star Courage departed Durban Port for her maiden voyage of citrus to Japan. Three cheers to the Citrus Industry for being part of this historic voyage.



Invited guests representing the Citrus Growers' Association - Craig Archibald, Faisal Asmal, John Edmonds, Mike Woodburn and Gloria Weare.



The brand new ship - MV Star Courage - on its maiden voyage to Japan, with South African citrus in her refrigeration holds.



Ryan Madsen SA Rep for SIEM Shipping giving a speech for the MV Star Courage Maiden Voyage.



Steven Cadonna, local Star Reefers Manager with Beverly McNally, Operations Manager for SIEM Shipping, owners of the new vessel, who flew out from London for the ceremony.



Proud Captain of the MV Star Courage being presented with Commemorative Plaque by Hoosen Ahmed, Fresh Produce Terminals Manager.