

**CIRCULAR REF: 2010/026**

**CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS, BROKERS AND DIRECTORS  
ATTENTION INSURANCE DEPARTMENT**

**13 SEPTEMBER 2010  
SCM**

**ELECTRONIC (PAPERLESS) TRADING SYSTEMS –  
BOLERO INTERNATIONAL LIMITED AND ELECTRONIC SHIPPING SOLUTIONS**

Until February 2010 the Rules of all of the Clubs comprising the International Group of P&I Clubs (the Group) specifically excluded liabilities in respect of the carriage of cargo under all electronic, that is paperless, trading systems to the extent that the liabilities under such systems would not have arisen under a 'normal' paper system, that is one using transferable paper documentation.

The Group, after reviewing a number of electronic trading systems, agreed that liabilities arising in respect of the carriage of cargo under such systems would be covered from 20 February 2010 provided that the system had first been approved by the Group. Two systems approved by the Group in their versions current at the date of this circular are that administered by Electronic Shipping Solutions (the ESS system - version DSUA v. 2009.3) and that administered by Bolero International Ltd (the Bolero system - Rulebook/Operating Procedures September 1999). The websites of the two entities are [www.essdocs.com](http://www.essdocs.com) and [www.bolero.net](http://www.bolero.net).

The legal documentation associated with the use and operation of the two systems is reviewed by the Group and its legal advisers if and when amended by either of the organisations, to ensure that any modifications introduced by them meet the Group's requirements.

Traditional exclusions of cover under Club Rules relating to the carriage of cargo, will of course continue to apply in respect of ESS and Bolero in the same way as for paper systems, eg discharge at a port or place other than the port or place provided for in the contract of carriage, the issue / creation of an ante or post dated electronic document / record, delivery of cargo without the production of the negotiable electronic document / record.

Members should also be aware that participation in an electronic trading system may expose them to certain liabilities which are not of a traditional P&I nature. These may arise through shipowners or charterers who wish to participate in either the ESS or Bolero systems being required to be party to particular contractual arrangements under which they assume obligations necessary for the system to operate. Examples of such liabilities may be for breach of confidentiality undertakings or of obligations to maintain computer links. Members should be aware that, in so far as such risks are not of a traditional P&I nature, other insurance arrangements may be required.

## CIRCULAR

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NORTH OF ENGLAND P&I ASSOCIATION LIMITED 100 The Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, NE1 3DU  
Telephone: +44 (0) 191 2325221 Fax: +44 (0) 191 2610540 [www.nepia.com](http://www.nepia.com)

The North of England Protecting and Indemnity Association Limited. Registered in England No. 505456. Registered Office above  
Hong Kong: Room 2503, COSCO Tower, 183 Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong Telephone: +852 25446813 Fax: +852 25424424  
Greece: 5-7 Aghiou Nikolaou, GR 185 37 Piraeus, Greece Telephone: +30 210 4283038 Fax: +30 210 4280920.  
Singapore: 80 Anson Road, #26-04 Fuji Xerox Towers, Singapore 079907 Telephone: +65 64110160 Fax: +65 62240160.  
Tokyo: Akiyoshi Kyobashi Building, 8th Floor, 1-17-2 Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan 104-0031 Tel: +81 (3) 5159 5373 Fax: +81 (3) 5250 0003  
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Finally it would be helpful to the Group, in monitoring the use and development of the two systems, if Members who are using either of them would advise their Club that they are doing so and of any benefits or difficulties which they encounter, legal or practical, in the operation of either system.

All Clubs in the Group have issued a similar Circular.

STEPHEN MILLS  
DIRECTOR - North Insurance Management Limited  
As Managers on behalf of the North of England P&I Association Limited