



# Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung

## Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation • P.O. Box 30 12 20 • 20305 Hamburg

**Office Building**  
Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78  
20359 Hamburg  
Tel.: + 49 (0) 40 31 90 – 83 11  
Fax: + 49 (0) 40 31 90 – 83 40  
posteingang@bsu-bund.de  
<http://www.bsu-bund.de>

Leitweg ID 991-14090-76

**Your reference**  
**Your message dated**

**My reference**  
(please state on reply)  
108/22

**+ 49 40 31 90 – 8311**

**Email: [posteingang@bsu-bund.de](mailto:posteingang@bsu-bund.de)**

**Date**

**29.03.2023**

### **PRESS RELEASE No 05/23**

The Federal Maritime Accident Investigation Bureau (BSU) announces that on 29 March 2023 the interim investigation report about the cargo fire on the bulker LASCOMBES in Bremerhaven on 1 April 2022, was published. The interim report provides information on the subject of the investigation, the course and the current status of the investigative work. It is possible to read it on the Internet at

[https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Publications\\_node.html](https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Publications_node.html).

#### **Cargo fire on the LASCOMBES in the connecting port of Bremerhaven on 1 April 2022**

At 17:47 on 1 April 2022 a fire was reported in hold 4 on the Marshall Island-flagged bulker carrier LASCOMBES. At that time, the vessel was moored at the pier in its port of destination in Bremerhaven. The cargo, consisting of wood-plastic composite (WPC), bamboo-plastic composite (BPC), screen-printed wood panels and feed grade pellets, was spread across five cargo holds in varying quantities.

In the ensuing days, the fire spread to the adjacent holds 3 and 5. The extinguishing works proved to be very difficult, as the fire repeatedly reignited in different places in the cargo holds irrespective of the applied extinguishing agent. It was not until the tenth day that the fire could be reported as finally extinguished thanks to the massive deployment of emergency services and extinguishing agents and the scene could be handed over to the police. The clean-up and unloading activities dragged on well into the fall, so that only then the actual investigation into the cause of the accident could begin.

The investigation into the accident is still ongoing. Various expert reports were commissioned, the results of which are not available yet.

Because the one-year deadline for publication, set by the European Union and adopted as national law by the Federal Republic of Germany, cannot be met, the public is informed about the status of the investigations into this serious marine accident by means of the publication of an interim investigation report.

All investigation reports, safety recommendations as well as other publications of the BSU are available for download at

[https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Unfallberichte/Unfallberichte\\_node.html](https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Unfallberichte/Unfallberichte_node.html).

Ulf Kaspera  
Director