

Quenvale bulk carrier held after port-state safety inspection

Mireva Tanlow, Straitline Business Times, 23 Jun 2026, 194 words

A dry-bulk carrier operated by Singapore-based Quenvale Marine Pte. Ltd. was held at anchorage for four days last week after a port-state safety inspection found deficiencies in its fire-fighting equipment.

The port authority said inspectors boarding the Quenvale Aster found an emergency fire pump that did not start on the first attempt, two expired breathing-apparatus cylinders and incomplete records of fire drills. The vessel was released on Friday after the equipment was repaired and inspected again.

Quenvale Marine said no one was injured and that the vessel's cargo of grain was not affected. "We corrected every item before the ship sailed, and we are reviewing maintenance schedules across the fleet," managing director Daven Korsloe said.

Detentions after port-state inspections are a common part of shipping operations. Regional data show that about 3 per cent of inspections in Asian ports last year ended with a vessel being held until defects were fixed.

The Quenvale Aster, built in 2012, is one of 14 bulk carriers managed by the company. The ship had passed its previous inspection in 2025 without a detention. The company said the four-day delay would not affect its obligations under the current charter.

Document QMA-20260623-4592

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