War P&I Cover: Safeguarding Maritime Trade Amidst Conflict

It is fact that as long as trade has existed, the Risks of War disrupting vital shipping routes has been a big concern as well. The unfortunate reality is that armed conflicts and acts of terrorism can pose significant threats to maritime trade, leading to potential loss or damage to vessels, cargo, and crew. To mitigate these risks, the maritime industry relies on specialized insurance products like War Protection and Indemnity (War P&I) cover.

War P&I cover is a cover specifically designed to provide protection and indemnity to shipowners, operators, and charterers for losses incurred due to war-related risks. Standard P&I insurance, or Protection and Indemnity insurance, primarily covers liabilities arising from the operation of a vessel, such as collisions, pollution, crew injuries, and cargo damage. However, these policies often exclude losses that arise from war, civil unrest, terrorism, and related perils.

To address this gap, War P&I cover was introduced, ensuring that maritime stakeholders have the necessary financial support to manage risks associated with conflict situations and their potential consequences.

War P&I cover offers protection for a wide range of war-related perils, including but not limited to:

War Risks: This encompasses losses or damages directly resulting from warlike actions, such as acts of hostility, armed conflicts, or invasions. These may include attacks from military forces, piracy, and sabotage.

Strikes, Riots, and Civil Commotions : Damage or loss caused by strikes, riots, and civil commotions that may escalate into violence during times of political instability is also covered by this policy.

Terrorism: War P&I cover extends to losses caused by acts of terrorism, including bombings, hijackings, and attacks against ships or ports.

Detainment and Diversion: In cases where a vessel is detained or diverted due to war risks, the policy can provide compensation for the resulting financial losses, including demurrage and deviation costs.



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Confiscation and Expropriation: War P&I cover may also include protection against the confiscation or expropriation of the insured vessel or cargo by a foreign government during times of conflict.

Safeguarding Trade Routes: War P&I cover plays a crucial role in safeguarding international trade routes, which are essential for the global economy. By providing financial protection in the face of war risks, the insurance helps maintain the flow of goods even in turbulent times.

Risk Management: For shipowners and operators, War P&I cover is an essential risk management tool. It allows them to focus on their core business operations, knowing they have the necessary financial protection in the event of a war-related incident.

Compliance with International Conventions: Many international conventions, such as the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage (BUNKER Convention) and the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, require shipowners to maintain insurance, including War P&I cover. Complying with these regulations is essential to continue operating in international waters.

The maritime industry is inherently exposed to various risks, especially during times of conflict and geopolitical tension. War P&I cover serves as a vital safety net, providing financial protection to shipowners, operators, and charterers against war-related risks that standard P&I insurance excludes. By safeguarding maritime trade routes and ensuring compliance with international conventions, War P&I cover plays an indispensable role in maintaining the stability and continuity of global trade, even in the face of adversity. As the world navigates through turbulent waters, the significance of War P&I cover remains as crucial as ever in safeguarding maritime interests.

