

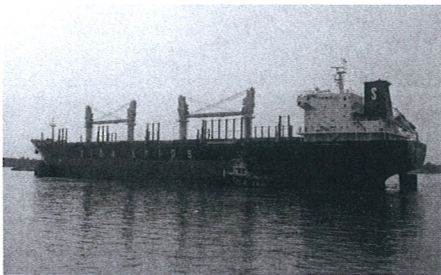
UNITEAM MARINE NEWS
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Page 3

**WELCOME ORANGE OCEAN WITH
STELLA GEMMA**

A BRAND NEW SHIP...

Everybody knows what that means: A lot of pleasant moments and excitement, gradually increasing from the time the vessel is launched to the time all works have been completed and she leaves the Yard.

Yes, it is a great feeling and we are extremely happy to witness such moments. However, to our technical department, the process of taking a ship over is equally intensive as we have to examine the newcomer as meticulously as possible. Our task is to run ships at highest standards for many years and always in the safest manner.



For MV "STELLA GEMMA" (35000 DWT bulk carrier) our preparations had already begun in November 2008.

Firstly we had to sort out quite many issues regarding the initial supplies, and subsequently establish contact with the Yard's Supervision Team in order to clarify many technical questions. Afterwards the offers from Suppliers had to be evaluated and best options examined prior to releasing of the orders. Bearing in mind, that not all low priced options are the most economic, we had to arrange quite an important part to be air-freighted from Europe to China. Finally, the long planned awaited date arrived and we were able to board the ship. After a general impression, we proceeded with the inspection of the ballast tanks. You may ask: "Why? She is a brand new ship!" . Yes, she is. But, if you did not have any possibility to witness the newbuilding process you

have no means to verify the performance of the Shipyard. So, it makes great sense to inspect and record the condition of the tanks which are still easily accessible. They reveal a lot of information about the ship's construction and as we say, "if the ballast tanks and main components are in sound and good condition then the ship is well built and safe". In addition it is good to have a close look in the cargo holds, the paint application and steel work quality, the design and structural characteristics. Truly, we found the ship to have been built to our expectations, with robust hatch covers and coamings. Likewise, the cargo holds left us with positive impressions.



So, our Technical Manager Mr. D. Mitev and myself had to go through nearly all ballast tanks and cargo holds and also spent a big part of our time in the engine room, on Deck and in-

spected Hull work for collection of all necessary information that we had to compile. As expected the last two nights were rather very short but... we managed to get some sleep in the taxi to the airport and later in the airplane.

The result was that we were satisfied with what we had seen and that we had achieved to fully follow our planned schedule.

Yes, she is a "brand new ship", and she may serve the Owners for many years. Our task is to take care and keep her running.

Vytautas Rimeika