

Stop Loss UPDATE

June 2021

Plastic Nurdles – Loss into the Marine Environment

As the shipping industry turns its attention towards the increasing problem of container loss at sea, the Club wishes to draw specific attention to a consequential issue of plastic pellet loss.



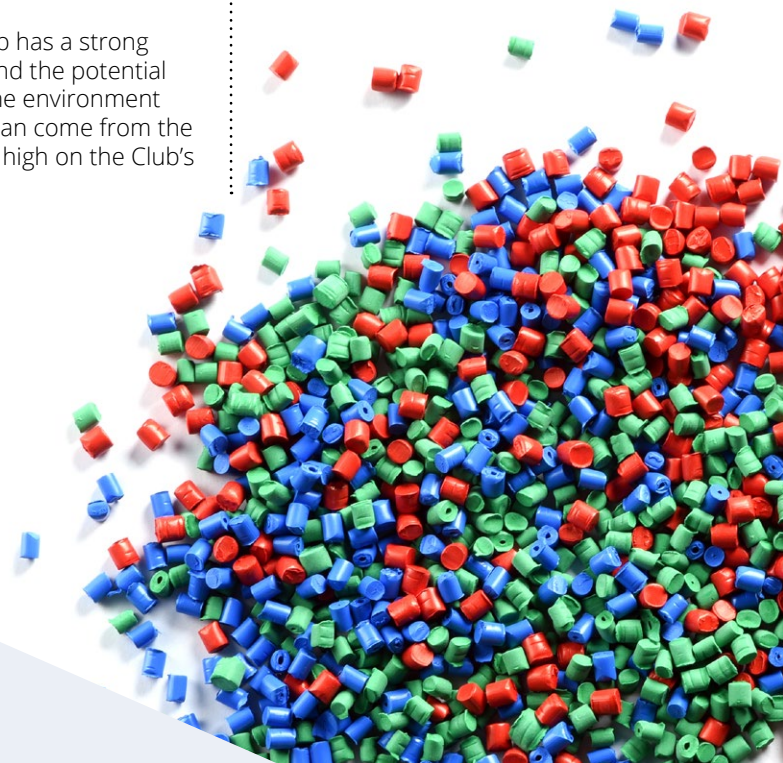
Plastic Pellets, often referred to as 'nurdles', are a very common means of transporting plastics around the globe for the plastics industry. An innocuous product on close inspection, there is growing concern over the environmental consequences of their loss into the environment generally and now more specifically the marine environment.

When a ship loses containers at sea, traditional concern relates primarily to the potential detection and recovery that may need to take place at considerable cost. However, in recent cases the increasing instances of plastic pellets washing up on beaches and coastal marine infrastructure as a result of container loss have alerted the Club to this form of damage, which is particularly difficult and labour intensive to remove.

Furthermore, the Club has a strong sustainability ethos and the potential for harm to the marine environment and aquatic life that can come from the loss of such pellets is high on the Club's agenda for change.

The Club maintains the view that the risk of loss of plastic pellets would be easily controlled through a requirement to carry this type of cargo below deck on containerships. At the moment, this is not the case. However, the Club is most encouraged to note that an international initiative in the form of Operation Clean Sweep is also promoting the concept of below deck carriage for this product. Largely made up of partners from the manufacturing industry, we fully support the campaign.

Further to our endorsement of Operation Clean Sweep, the Club is delighted to announce the Club's role as a supporter.





Operation Clean Sweep®



The British Plastics Federation (BPF) is the main trade association covering the entire plastics supply chain in the UK. The association hosts the Operation Clean Sweep initiative in the UK where 330 UK sites across the entire supply chain, including transport and port authorities, have already committed to implement plastic pellet loss prevention measures across their operations.

To learn more about Operation Clean Sweep and receive free guidance click [here](#).

“Operation Clean Sweep is a very successful model of collaboration between the various actors within the plastics supply chain and beyond. Careful management of plastic pellets during shipping is essential to ensure no loss to the environment occurs.”

Adela Putinelu
BPF Senior Sustainability Executive

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