



CariMar

Caribbean Marine and P&I (USA) Inc

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A USERS PRACTICAL VIEW POINT OF THE ADVANTAGES AND USES OF A COLTRACO ULTRASONIC PORTASCANNER™ II.

ADVANTAGES

1. Portable, lightweight, easily carried through tanks, hatches, on ladders, through most accessible tank structures, void spaces and many other applications within the structures of ships of all types and sizes.
2. The magnetic base, exclusive to Coltraco™ units, makes the unit particularly useful and advantageous in personnel not having to climb down and up the access ladders of deep holds, or tanks, and other spaces difficult to access, to place the unit inside the hold or space. The miniaturized Generator (signal transmitter unit with a capacity that exceeds that of bulkier ones available on the market)) may be attached to the inside of the hatch coaming or the underside of the hatch cover or inside the particular space access opening.
3. Particularly useful for testing on bulk carrier hatches, manway accesses, ventilation inlet and exhaust covers, tanker tank access man-ways, ullage covers and various deck accessed lockers. Storage spaces such as Bosun's store, paint locker, gas cylinder lockers, weather deck accesses with watertight doors, all watertight doors on deck and accesses between spaces below weather deck fitted with watertight doors.
4. The time for carrying out hold cargo worthiness surveys has been reduced by employing the Coltraco™ Portascanne™II unit.
5. We have found the use of the Portascanner™II has significantly reduced the time required to carry out the surveys instead of the traditional hose testing, chalk testing, visual/light testing.
6. It has also reduced the dangers for surveyors having to climb the variety of ladder structures on older vessels where the condition of the ladders themselves may be questionable. The survey can still be carried out with the Portascanne™II being attached directly to hatch covers and hatch coamings from the deck, without the personnel being exposed to these dangers.



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Caribbean Marine and P&I USA Inc., based in Florida, with staff surveyors in Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, The Bahamas, Barbados, have used the Portascanner™II for the following types of surveys:

- P&I Clubs full vessel condition surveys. Used on Ro Ro vessel bow, side, and stern ramps, bulk carrier hatches, watertight doors, void spaces, ballast tank accesses, general cargo vessel holds and hatches, tankers ullage ports and tank manway accesses, container vessels hatches, hold ventilation openings.
- P&I club surveys to test holds and hatches watertight integrity during investigations into cargo damage claims.
- Vessel owners, charterers, and cargo interests have requested ultrasonic hold/hatch surveys to determine the cargo worthiness of the holds prior to loading cargo. Using Coltraco Portascanner™II has significantly reduced the time for these surveys as the surveyor does not have to enter the hold to carry out a hose, chalk, or light test of the holds/hatches, therefore enabling loading to commence sooner.
- Hatch surveys on break-bulk general cargo vessels after cargo loading on behalf of owners and charterers and cargo interests.
- Testing of void spaces on deck barges.
- Testing of any enclosed space for Hull and Machinery insurers.
- Testing of various compartments watertight integrity while carrying out damage surveys and evaluations following collisions and allisions.
- During on or off hire surveys, testing of the integrity of hatches, watertight doors.
- Most P&I Clubs now prefer any condition survey to be carried out ultrasonically
- We have had the experience whereby a vessel owner has had to request an ultrasonic test because the local regulatory authority will not allow a hose test due to the potential for pollutants from the deck may be washed overboard while undergoing a hose test. This has been accomplished in a timely and cost effective manner using Coltraco Portascanner™II.
- In shipyard repair situations, tanks and spaces have been tested after repairs using Portascanner™II rather than traditional pressure tests, being a cost effective and accurate test rather than filling the tanks with water or air pressure testing.

In our 20 years in business as marine surveyors, becoming one of the most recognizable companies in the wider Caribbean, we have always looked for ways to make the surveyor's job easier, more reliable, and safer. By researching the market for instrumentation that would enhance the surveyor's role, we purchased and started to use the Coltraco Portascanner™II hatch test unit for holds and hatches instead of the traditional hose test or chalk test.



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Customers recognized that the instruments are more reliable and provide results that may be repeated easily and often, rather than using hose testing.

We found the digital screen readout is particularly easy to see and understand, and clearly indicates the reading of the signal being received. The head phones are a comfortable design, light weight, with a high capability of reducing external noise to enable the operator to more clearly hear the signal being picked up by the microphone/receiver to complement the visual display and identify the exact point of a potential leak.

We also have found the light weight of the units and the narrow design of the case of the handheld instrument to be extremely helpful while climbing ladders and crawling through and around vessel structures. The signal generator weighs only approximately one (1) pound or just less than 0.5 Kg. The handheld receiver also weighs approximately the same.

Our surveyors found the magnetic base feature of the transmitter particularly useful as it enables them to attach the signal generator to the underside of hatches or to the hatch coaming, and not have to climb down long vertical ladders to place the transmitter down at the bottom of a hold. In small spaces only accessible through a manhole, it is far easier to reach in through the opening to attach the transmitter to any metal structure instead of crawling in to the confined space to place the unit somewhere inside.

In our extensive experience using the Portascanner™II in all these different types of environments and on different types of vessels we found the surveyor's time to carry out the surveys has been significantly reduced and carrying out the surveys is far safer. We have also carried out tests of holds on behalf of charterers to demonstrate the cargo worthiness of the vessel, and this has resulted in more pre-cargo condition surveys being carried out using ultrasonics.

The lesser time taken to carry out these tests is valuable to owners and ship managers in that they can demonstrate without lengthy visual inspections that the vessel is ready in all respects to carry the cargo, meaning cargo loading can commence earlier. The results determined by electronic instrumentation are also extremely valuable to vessel owners, charterers, and cargo interests because they can all be assured the cargo worthiness has been determined to a high degree thereby assuring all that the chance of cargo damage by water ingress is a very low probability.



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