



## **Fire at the Itaqui Terminal, São Luís/Brazil - January 2015**

A fire broke out at the Itaqui Port in São Luis, Brazil in the early hours of 29 January.

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The fire broke out in Itaquí port on Thursday, 29 January 2015 at the premises of Suzano, one of the largest cellulose exporters in the region. Gard understands that the terminal's grain loading conveyor belt system has also been affected. Extensive damage has been reported and as a result of the incident, vessels may experience considerable delays to loading and discharge operations.

According to Williams Brothers Brazil Ltd. the fire was extinguished by Thursday evening, however, smoke continues to be a problem and the port remains closed. The terminal is currently not operating pending further instructions from the local authorities.

**Recommendations** Whilst the extent of the fire and resulting damage is not yet known, Members and clients whose vessels are currently at or plan to load cargo at Suzano's Terminal/Itaquí in future, or are ordered to do so in the near future under existing charterparty arrangements, should be aware of the likelihood of delays. Members and clients considering fixing a voyage to Itaquí may wish to give consideration to the above when negotiating contractual terms.

*\*We would like to thank Gard's correspondents,\*Williams Brothers Ltd, for their assistance in the preparation of this alert and for the information provided by Brazmar Marine Services Ltda.*