

(SITREP -1 2200 Hrs on 24/05/2025)

Listing of MSC ELSA III (IMO no – 9123221)

1. Incident Overview:

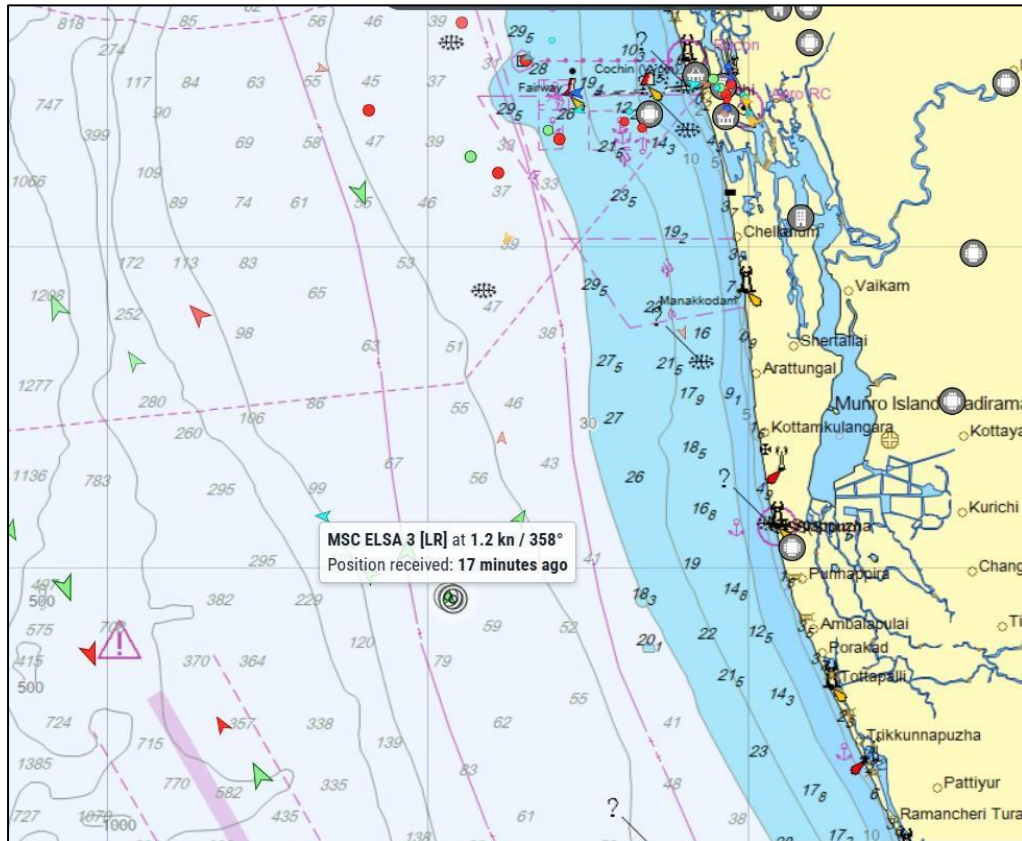
On 24 May 2025 at approximately 1300 hrs IST, the container vessel MSC ELSA 3, operated by MSC Shipmanagement Ltd., developed a severe starboard list while en route from Vizhinjam to Cochin, about 30 nautical miles southwest of Cochin Port. By 1515 hrs IST, the list had increased to 30 degrees and stabilized, with no further progression observed.



Figure 1: MSC ELSA 3

2. Response Actions Initiated:

The Indian Coast Guard promptly responded to the incident by deploying a Dornier aircraft, which conducted aerial surveillance and successfully air-dropped a life raft to aid in crew evacuation. Additionally, surface units have been mobilised and are en route to provide Search and Rescue (SAR) and vessel support. The Indian Navy has also initiated assistance, with one naval vessel departing from Cochin and another, positioned north of the incident site, being rerouted to offer operational and humanitarian support.



3. Present Status:

Of the 24 crew members on-board (Russian – 01, Ukrainian – 02, Georgian -01, Filipinos 20), 21 have been safely evacuated to a life raft, while 3 remain onboard and are confirmed safe, maintaining communication with nearby vessels. M/V HANE YI is in close proximity, providing visual and VHF support. Some life rafts could not be deployed due to the vessel's severe list. No oil pollution has been reported so far. Crew list is attached

4. Additional Support:

MSC SILVER III, an MSC-operated vessel, has been deployed from Cochin to provide assistance at the incident site. M/V HANE YI remains on standby, maintaining communication and offering coordination support. Meanwhile, MSC Ship Management Ltd. has activated its emergency response protocols and is actively coordinating with MRCC Mumbai and relevant regional authorities to manage the situation.

5. Current Vessel Condition:

The vessel remains afloat and stable with a sustained 22° list, suggesting a temporary state of hydrostatic balance. There are no reports of water ingress, fire, or oil pollution. However, some life-saving appliances are inaccessible due to the listing angle, a risk currently being mitigated through aerial deployment of additional life-saving equipment.

6. Navigational Hazards:

Multiple containers have fallen overboard and are drifting in the vicinity, creating a navigational hazard. A Navarea warning has been issued via email to INHO and NCD Mumbai for promulgation. The vessel's updated position has been tracked via Marine Traffic. [insert latest position if available]

7. Coordination Measures

An online meeting was held on 24 May 2025 at 2000 hrs regarding the MSC Elsa III vessel incident, attended by officials from DGS, MMD Kochi, Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Kochi Port, MSC, and other stakeholders. Key outcomes included directions to owners for immediate mobilisation of salvors, appointment of an expert agency, and implementation of pollution prevention measures. Owners were instructed to ensure crew evacuation due to deteriorating weather, and to provide details on overboard containers, vessel condition, and cargo particulars. Two-hourly updates from ship-owners were mandated to ensure close monitoring and coordinated response.

8. Details of Cargo in Containers that have fallen overboard

Details are awaited from Owners

SITUATION REPORT - Initial

Incident: MSC ELSA 3 – Vessel Listing Emergency

Date: 24 May 2025

Time of Report: 1530 hrs IST

1. Incident Overview:

At approximately 1300 hrs IST on 24 May 2025, the container vessel MSC ELSA 3 (IMO No. 9123221), operated by MSC Shipmanagement Ltd., developed a severe starboard list while transiting from Vizhinjam to Cochin, approximately 30 nautical miles southwest of Cochin Port, at position 09°30.1'N / 075°46.638'E.

As of 1515 hrs IST, the vessel's list has increased to 30 degrees and is reported to be in a state of equilibrium, with no further progression observed.

2. Crew Status:

- Total crew onboard: 24
- 9 crew members are confirmed safe in a life raft.
- The remaining crew are onboard, safe, and in communication with nearby vessels.
- M/V HANE YI, a merchant vessel in proximity, has visual contact and was in VHF communication with the crew.
- Certain life rafts onboard MSC ELSA 3 could not be deployed due to the listing angle.

3. Response Actions:

a. Indian Coast Guard (ICG):

- An ICG Dornier aircraft is presently hovering at the incident location, maintaining aerial surveillance.
- In view of reported difficulties in launching life-saving equipment from the distressed vessel, the Dornier aircraft has successfully deployed a life raft near the vessel to enhance crew evacuation capability.

- Surface units have been mobilised and are enroute to the site for potential Search and Rescue (SAR), evacuation, or stabilisation support.

b. Indian Navy:

- An Indian Naval vessel has sailed from Cochin and is proceeding to the site.
- Another Naval vessel, stationed north of the incident location, has been rerouted to provide operational and humanitarian assistance.

c. Commercial Assistance:

- MSC SILVER III, a MSC vessel, has been deployed from Cochin and is heading to the incident position to provide support.
- M/V HANE YI remains on standby at the scene and continues to provide updates and coordination support.

d. MSC Shipmanagement:

- The operator has activated its emergency response protocols and is coordinating with MRCC Mumbai and regional authorities.

4. Risk Assessment & Stability:

- The vessel remains afloat and stable with a sustained 30° list, suggesting a temporary hydrostatic balance.
- No reports of ingress of water, fire, or oil pollution have been received so far.
- The inability to launch some of the vessel's own life-saving appliances presents a risk to safe evacuation, which is being mitigated by aerial deployment.

End of Report