

Splash

247.com

MOL and Allianz take Volkswagen to court over sinking of Felicity Ace car carrier

Sam Chambers

March 6, 2024



Portuguese Navy

The shipowner of the *Felicity Ace* and its insurer have filed separate lawsuits in Germany against Volkswagen over the blaze and [subsequent sinking](#) of the car carrier.

Mitsui OSK Lines and Allianz have identified what they believe to have been a faulty battery in a Porsche electric vehicle as the cause for the fire, which saw 3,965 vehicles go down with the ship two years ago some 400 km off the coast of Portugal.

The fire that broke out on the 6,400 ceu ship lasted for three weeks with the damage from the incident estimated to cost anywhere between \$400m and \$500m. Onboard were Bentleys, Lamborghinis, and 1,100 Porsches.

Electric vehicles use lithium-ion batteries which, when on fire, can reach temperatures of more than 2,700 degrees Celsius. *Splash* has been reporting on more and more battery-related fires at sea in recent years in line with the growth in demand for electric vehicles around the world.

The dangers of carrying lithium-ion batteries on ships were highlighted in an Allianz Global Corporate & Speciality report, which ranked fire and explosion as the number one cause of marine insurance losses by value from 2017 to 2021.

"The debate about EVs in the shipping industry is ongoing, with conversations about whether there is a need for dedicated ro-ro vessels for EVs," Allianz noted in the report.