

Seafarer dies in severe blaze on Maersk vessel off India

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India Coast Guard

One seafarer has died in the severe blaze onboard the one-month-old *Maersk Frankfurt* off India.

Indian Coast Guard ships, helicopters and planes spent the weekend dousing the ship, with latest reports suggesting the fire has been suppressed, but there is still much smoke from the front deck of the 5,500 teu vessel.

The Panama-flagged *Maersk Frankfurt* reported explosions and fire on its front deck on Friday off Goa, while sailing to Colombo in Sri Lanka.

A statement from the Panama Maritime Authority stated yesterday, "The ship's operator reports a body in the lashing bridge, but it is impossible to reach it because of the flames."

The coast guard expects it will take another up to four more days to fully douse the fire which continues to burn inside containers to the fore of the vessel.

The Imabari-built unit delivered in June and is owned by Tokei Kaiun of Japan, chartered to Maersk, and managed by a Hong Kong unit of Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement, according to Equasis data.