



Technical Article

Continuous Versus Discontinuous Shipunloading

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This paper compares the advantages, disadvantages, and status of grab and continuous coal unloading systems for ocean-going ships.

1. Discontinuous Systems

The clam shell grab bucket is the pre-eminent example of the discontinuous discharge system. The grab bucket unloader is a well-known, time-tested, proven, and reliable design. It has the advantages of flexibility adaptability reliability, ease of maintenance, and availability at competitive market prices.

Much of the wear and tear on the unloading machine is concentrated on the bucket which comes into direct contact with the material. A damaged bucket can be replaced or re paired as needed with minimal impact on terminal operations. There is also wear and tear on the wire ropes. How ever, their replacement is a straightforward operation, providing another example of the relative ease of maintenance of grab bucket systems. Another feature which facilitates the maintenance of the grab bucket system is that the complex machinery is not in contact with the material which is handled.