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| **Type of Damage/Loss** | **Common Causes** |
| **On-Board Vessel (Marine Damage)** | |
| Mold/sweat | * Damp storage conditions * Moisture trapped in the hold * Moisture due to condensation, particularly in break bulk ships in transit from cold to warm climates * Inadequate and/or improper ventilation |
| Infestation | * Infestation present before the commodity was loaded * Improper segregation of infested commodity * Holds not thoroughly cleaned and fumigated before loading |
| Water damage | * Hatches not properly closed or secured; water able to enter into the compartments * Leak in the steel plates, allowing entry of water |
| Cut, torn, or leaking packaging | * Inadequate packaging in the country of origin * Improper handling while loading; poor loading supervision in donor country * Commodity stacked alongside pipes, rails, and crates * Improper handling when the food is discharged from the holds |
| Contamination | * Commodity loaded next to chemicals, insecticides, or other hazardous materials |
| Short landing of bulk commodity | * Reduction in grain moisture content during transport * Dispersion of grain particles and dust into the air at the time of loading and discharge * Loading scales not calibrated the same as discharge scales * Pilferage of commodity in the hold |
| **During Discharge** | |
| Cut, torn, or leaking packaging | * Dragging a pallet across the hold * Overloading pallets * Allowing rope slings to cut into bags stacked on a pallet * Overloading material handling carts * Use of hooks * Inaccurate scales |
| Short landing | * Inadequate tally * Theft (inadequate port security) * Inadequate supervision during reconstitution * Inaccurate scales |