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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
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| Infestation | * Infestation present before the commodity was loaded
* Improper segregation of infested commodity
* Holds not thoroughly cleaned and fumigated before loading
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| Water damage | * Hatches not properly closed or secured; water able to enter into the compartments
* Leak in the steel plates, allowing entry of water
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| 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
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| Contamination | * Commodity loaded next to chemicals, insecticides, or other hazardous materials
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| 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
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| **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
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| Short landing | * Inadequate tally
* Theft (inadequate port security)
* Inadequate supervision during reconstitution
* Inaccurate scales
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