



# GREEN BRIEFING

FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION

**“Cost to Workers: ZERO. Benefit: LIFETIME”**

Courtesy: GMS

Till Date

**825**

Training Sessions

**12,845**

Workers Trained

**70**

Topics Covered



# HAZARDOUS WASTE: SAFE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL

Ship recycling generates large volumes of material that must be managed carefully once dismantling begins. Along with recoverable steel and equipment, many ships also contain substances that are harmful to workers and the surrounding environment. Paint residues, oily sludge, insulation debris, contaminated rags, chemical containers, batteries, and electrical components are common examples.

When these materials are treated like normal scrap or general yard waste, exposure risks increase quickly. Dust, vapours, and liquid spills can affect workers handling the waste directly. Improper storage can contaminate soil and nearby water bodies. Unsafe disposal practices can also move the hazard outside the yard and into surrounding communities.

Safe waste handling begins at the moment hazardous material is identified during dismantling work. Workers, supervisors, and yard managers each play a role in keeping hazardous waste controlled from removal to final disposal.

“Hazardous waste management is not about paperwork alone. It is about preventing exposure at the point where workers interact with these materials.”

Dr. Anand Hiremath, CEO, SSORP

Training sessions conducted this month across India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan focused on strengthening awareness of hazardous waste, safe handling practices, and responsible disposal methods. Workers and supervisors examined how hazardous materials appear during routine dismantling tasks and how small actions can prevent serious exposure.

The improvements observed after these sessions are described below.

## TRAINING REACH (INDIA, BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN)

Hazardous Waste Handling and Disposal sessions were delivered across major ship recycling clusters to strengthen practical waste management practices.

Coverage included:

India: Alang yards

Bangladesh: Chattogram yards

Pakistan: Gadani yards

Training focus: Hazardous Waste Identification, Safe Handling, Storage, and Disposal

Participants included workers involved in dismantling operations, material handling teams, waste collection crews, supervisors, and yard safety personnel.

These sessions focused on real examples found in ship recycling yards. Trainers used practical demonstrations and discussions to help workers recognise hazardous materials and manage them correctly during daily work.

*This training is provided FREE of cost to workers, proudly sponsored by GMS under the Sustainable Ship & Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).*





## UNDERSTANDING HAZARDOUS WASTE IN SHIP RECYCLING

Ships contain many materials that can become hazardous waste once dismantling begins. These materials may appear in insulation, electrical equipment, machinery residues, coatings, and operational fluids.

Common hazardous waste generated in yards includes:

- Asbestos insulation and contaminated debris
- Paint chips containing heavy metals
- Oily sludge and contaminated liquids from engine rooms
- Chemical residues from cleaning agents and equipment
- Used batteries and damaged electrical components
- PCB-containing equipment, refrigerants (CFC/HCFC), and mercury switches
- Contaminated rags, filters, and absorbent materials

Exposure to these substances may occur through breathing dust, skin contact with liquids, or accidental ingestion. Some substances create immediate irritation while others cause health problems after repeated exposure.

Training sessions emphasised that recognising hazardous waste early is the first step in preventing exposure.

*This training is provided FREE of cost to workers, proudly sponsored by GMS under the Sustainable Ship & Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).*



Muhammad Usman, SSORP Coordinator in Pakistan, explained the importance of early identification during the sessions in Gadani:

“When workers recognise hazardous materials during dismantling, they can control the risk immediately. The danger increases only when these materials are ignored or treated like ordinary scrap.”



### Common Signs of Hazardous Waste in Ship Recycling

Workers should remain alert for indicators that materials may be hazardous.

Examples include:

Dust or fibres released during insulation removal

Strong chemical odours from containers or residues

Oily sludge collected from machinery spaces

Damaged batteries or electrical equipment

Paint flakes or powder during steel surface preparation

Liquid residues collected in tanks or pipelines

If workers suspect hazardous material, the task should pause and the supervisor should be informed.



## SAFER WASTE HANDLING DURING DISMANTLING

Hazardous waste often appears during dismantling tasks that workers perform daily. Insulation removal, tank cleaning, equipment dismantling, and cutting operations frequently produce materials that require careful handling.

Training sessions highlighted several important handling practices.

Workers should:

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., respirator, chemical-resistant gloves, protective clothing, eye protection).

*This training is provided FREE of cost to workers, proudly sponsored by GMS under the Sustainable Ship & Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).*



- Avoid direct contact with unknown residues
- Use designated containers for hazardous waste collection
- Prevent mixing hazardous waste with general scrap
- Inform supervisors when hazardous materials are discovered

During follow-up visits, trainers observed workers showing greater caution while removing insulation debris and oily residues. Containers were used more consistently during collection of contaminated materials.

A dismantling worker from a yard in Alang described the change:

“Earlier we sometimes threw everything into one pile. After the training we separate waste immediately because we understand what exposure can do.”

## SUPERVISOR ROLE IN WASTE CONTROL

Supervisors influence how hazardous waste is handled in the yard. When supervisors enforce proper waste practices, workers follow the same discipline during dismantling operations. Training discussions focused on the need for supervisors to monitor waste handling closely and correct unsafe behaviour immediately.

Mr. Rahul Singh, SSORP Coordinator in Alang, highlighted this responsibility:

“Hazardous waste control depends on supervision at the worksite. When supervisors ensure the correct container, the correct location, and the correct handling method, workers follow the system more easily.”

Across several yards, supervisors began checking waste containers more frequently and ensuring hazardous materials were not mixed with general debris.

This approach helps prevent uncontrolled exposure during routine work.



### Handling Hazardous Waste Safely

Workers involved in dismantling and waste collection should confirm the following:

The waste type is identified

Protective equipment is worn correctly

Waste is placed in approved containers

Containers remain closed after collection

Waste is transported only through designated routes

Simple actions like these reduce exposure for workers and maintain order in waste storage areas.



This training is provided FREE of cost to workers, proudly sponsored by GMS under the Sustainable Ship & Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).





## SAFE TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL

Hazardous waste must remain controlled even after it leaves the worksite. Improper transport or disposal can shift the risk to other areas.

Training sessions reviewed the importance of maintaining waste traceability from collection to final disposal.

Recommended practices include:

- Use sealed containers during transport
- Move waste through designated routes within the yard
- Maintain records of hazardous waste collection
- Send waste only to approved treatment or disposal facilities
- Hazardous waste transport only through an authorised transporter to an approved TSDF facility.

Muhammad Usman noted the importance of this final stage during discussions in Pakistan:

“When hazardous waste leaves the yard, responsibility does not end. Safe disposal ensures that the hazard does not return through the environment.”

*This training is provided FREE of cost to workers, proudly sponsored by GMS under the Sustainable Ship & Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).*



# FIELD OBSERVATIONS FROM TRAINING SESSIONS

During visits following the training sessions, coordinators observed several improvements in hazardous waste practices.

Examples included:

- Workers separating insulation waste from general scrap during dismantling tasks
- Oily sludge collected in sealed containers rather than open drums
- Supervisors verifying waste containers before transport
- Waste storage areas marked clearly to prevent mixing of materials

These improvements reduced worker exposure and strengthened environmental protection in participating yards.

## INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Yard supervisors and managers also shared their views on the importance of waste management training.

A yard supervisor in Alang stated:

“Waste management was always necessary, but the training helped workers understand why separation and storage are important. When workers understand the reason, they follow the system better.”

A yard owner in Bangladesh commented:

“Environmental responsibility is becoming more important for ship recycling. Proper hazardous waste handling is essential for the long term sustainability of the industry.”

These perspectives show that safety and environmental performance are closely connected.



## REGIONAL COORDINATOR INSIGHTS

SSORP coordinators across the region emphasised that hazardous waste awareness is improving steadily through continued training.

Mr. Zamil Uddin, SSORP Coordinator in Bangladesh, reflected on the training impact in Chattogram:

“Workers in ship recycling handle many materials during dismantling. When they understand which ones are hazardous, they begin protecting themselves and the environment at the same time.”

The program’s regional approach helps maintain consistent safety practices across different ship recycling clusters.

## PRACTICAL CHECKLIST FOR WORKERS

Before leaving a work area where hazardous waste is generated, workers should confirm:

- Hazardous materials are identified
- Waste is placed in approved containers
- Containers are sealed properly
- Waste containers are properly labelled

*This training is provided FREE of cost to workers, proudly sponsored by GMS under the Sustainable Ship & Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).*



Waste is stored in designated areas

Supervisors are informed about the collected waste

These simple checks help prevent exposure and maintain organised work areas.

## SAFER YARDS THROUGH RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Hazardous waste handling is a routine part of ship recycling operations. The risk becomes manageable when workers recognise hazardous materials early, handle them with care, store them properly, and ensure safe disposal.

Training programs strengthen these practices by building awareness among workers and supervisors. Each safe action during waste collection, storage, and disposal protects workers, prevents environmental contamination, and supports responsible ship recycling.

When waste management becomes part of daily discipline across the yard, hazardous materials remain controlled from the moment they are removed from the ship until their final treatment or disposal.



**“What is ignored today becomes tomorrow’s accident.”**



Dr. Anand Hiremath at: [anand@ssorp.net](mailto:anand@ssorp.net)

Telephone: +91 99794 75454

*This training is provided FREE of cost to workers, proudly sponsored by GMS under the Sustainable Ship & Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).*



## Round-up of monthly training activities - Hazardous Waste: Safe Handling and Disposal

Country	Training No.	Yard	Course Date	No. of Trainees
 <b>Bangladesh</b>	811	Janata Steels Ltd.	04.02.2026	22
	812	Mother Steel Ltd.	08.02.2026	40
	816	Chittagong Ship Breaking & Recycling Industries	14.02.2026	15
	823	S. H. Enterprise	18.02.2026	15
	824	Z. H. Steel Ltd.	22.02.2026	17
	825	Arefin Enterprise	23.02.2026	8
 <b>India</b>	813	Shree Ram Shipping Industries Pvt. Ltd.	10-02-2026	20
	814	Leela Greenship Recycling Pvt. Ltd	12-02-2026	25
	815	Leela Ship Recycling Pvt. Ltd.	13-02-2026	15
	817	Bansal Ship Breakers Pvt.Ltd.	17-02-2026	16
	818	Navyug Ship Breaking Co.	17-02-2026	9
	822	R K Industries Unit II LLP	18-02-2026	11
 <b>Pakistan</b>	819	Jamaluddin & Co	17/02/2026	18
	820	Prime Ship Breakers	17/02/2026	30
	821	S.A Traders	17/02/2026	13

This training is provided FREE of cost to workers, proudly sponsored by GMS under the Sustainable Ship & Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).





This training is provided FREE of cost to workers, proudly sponsored by GMS under the Sustainable Ship & Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).

