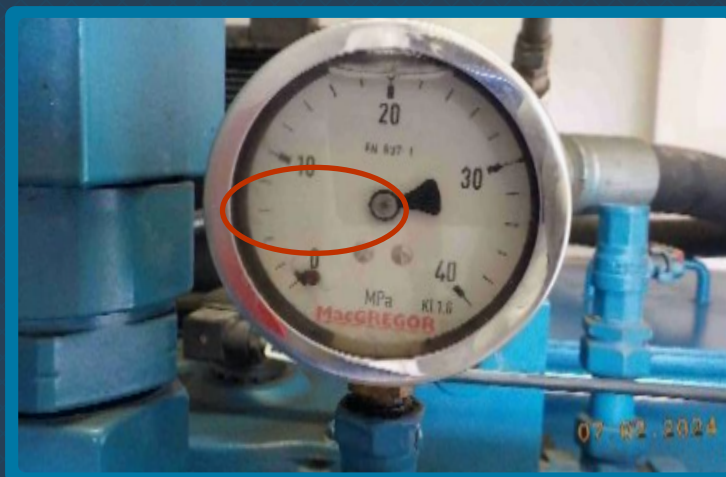


BROKEN PRESSURE GAUGE IN HYDRAULIC PUMP ROOM (No pressure... until there is)



- **RISQ 3.2 - Item 9.13** Are all applicable parts of the hatch covers in good order, and do they appear to be well maintained?
- **RISQ 3.2 - Item 9.20** Is the cargo cranes machinery and operator's cab, including the controls, in good working order and inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations?
- **SIRE 2.0 – 6.2.2.** Cargo system overboard and sea suction valves (Potential Grounds for a Negative Observation: The pressure/vacuum gauge fitted was damaged/defective)

FINDING

During an onboard pre-vetting (RightShip) inspection, the PAS Auditor observed that the pressure gauge installed in the hydraulic pump room, serving the cargo hold system was defective and inoperative. The gauge needle was damaged, rendering the pressure reading unreadable. Despite the malfunction, the hydraulic system remained in use, with no alternative method of pressure verification or temporary control measures in place. Furthermore, the defect had not been reported, tagged, or recorded for corrective action or follow-up.

IMPORTANCE

Pressure gauges are critical monitoring instruments essential to the safe operation of hydraulic systems. A non-functional gauge deprives operators of the ability to verify that the system is operating within safe pressure limits, to identify abnormal pressure conditions and to confirm that the system is fully depressurized prior to maintenance activities. Operating hydraulic equipment without a reliable pressure indication increases the risk of equipment damage, hose or seal failure, uncontrolled release of stored energy, and serious injury to personnel. Furthermore, it reduces situational awareness and compromises personnel's ability to recognize and respond effectively to developing faults. A defective pressure gauge should not be regarded as a minor deficiency; it represents a loss of a critical safety barrier

LESSONS LEARNED

- Do not operate hydraulic systems without reliable pressure indication. Treat defective gauges as safety-critical deficiencies.
- Report and record all instruments failures immediately, even when the system appears to operate normally.
- Include condition checks of gauges, indicators, and alarm devices, in routine machinery space inspections, in addition to pumps, pipework and associated equipment.
- Reinforce personnel awareness that instrumentation forms an integral part of the safety system and does not serve merely as a convenience.
- When a gauge failure occurs, assess the need for temporary operational restrictions or additional monitoring until repairs are completed.

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