

EMERGENCY BILGE SUCTION VALVE



- HELMET ELEMENT 11 'Emergency Preparedness' – Item 6 'Engine Room'
- SIRE 2.0 Questionnaire – 6.5. Machinery Space Pollution Prevention
- SOLAS Chapter II-1 Regulation 35-1 - Bilge Pumping Arrangements
- IMO: MSC.1/Circ.1424 Unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation II-1 / 48.3 Controls of emergency bilge suction valve in periodically unattended machinery spaces
- ICS: Engine Room Procedures Guide Ch. 5.4 - Flooding

INCIDENT

During an onboard attendance for vessel's Port State Control (PSC) preparation, the Engine Officers were performing ship's monthly checks as per Company's PMS, when the PAS auditor observed that the Engine's emergency bilge suction valve was stuck, resulting in a malfunction at the time of the test.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Emergency Bilge Suction system is used to prevent flooding of the E/R. It is important to check that the system's components are operational, and the PMS dictates proper intervals of routine inspection/testing. If the system remains inactive for a long period of time, then its moving parts may be stuck and non-functional.

SUGGESTIONS

- Ensure the PMS indicates testing of the system's valve at frequent and appropriate time intervals.
- Grease all moving parts such as the shaft joints, whenever deemed necessary.
- Verify that the valve operates at a fully open & closed position.
- Keep records of routine checking and maintenance.
- Ensure that the seafarers are familiar with and aware of the important role of subject equipment by providing additional training, if required.
- Maintain alertness and situational awareness in case of emergency.
- Mark the system valves and controls to secure proper operation and avoid any accidental opening.