

LIFEBOAT DAVIT WINCH MAINTENANCE



- **HELMET ELEMENT 4 ‘Safety’ – Item 4 ‘LSA, FFE and Emergency Escapes’**
- **SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20**
- **SIRE 2.0 Ch. 5 ‘Safety Management’ Sec. 5.4 ‘Life Saving Appliances’**
- **TMSA – Element 4, Section 4A.1.4 ‘Maintenance & Testing Procedures On-Board’**

INCIDENT

During the vessel’s preparation for the upcoming Port State Control, the PAS Assessor requested from the vessel’s personnel to conduct a lifeboat drill. During the drill, the Auditor observed a malfunction of the winch brakes and stopped the operation immediately.

FINDINGS

After investigation it was found that part of the sintered copper brake lining of the static brakes had been parted from the support plate. When the subject lining is detached from the backing plate, a static brake failure may occur, resulting in a potential injury, damage, or loss of the lifeboat.

BEST PRACTICES FOR THE VESSEL

- Record the condition of the static brakes during the annual planned maintenance inspection.
- Be accurate by avoiding the recording of comments such as “checked” or “done” without detailed explanation.
- Always retain at least one spare brake disc onboard.

ACTIONS FOR THE OFFICE

- Run a safety campaign to raise awareness about the possible defects and smooth operation of the lifeboats’ winch brakes.
- Check that the PMS calls for inspection of the brake lining area during the annual and 5 yearly maintenance cycle.
- Ensure compliance with the manufacturer’s instructions related to maintenance and replacement of critical parts.

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