



PREVENTION AT SEA

CIRCULAR 09/2019

“PRECAUTIONS DURING PORT STAY”



Don't Cure,
PREVENT

“Precautions during Port stay”

Case: During a H.EL.M.E.T. assessment onboard a vessel which was alongside, the PaSea Assessor evidenced damage of the gangway. The incident occurred because no one from crew was present at the gangway in order to heave it up according to the vessel's draft which was rising due to the loading operation in progress.

This incident highlights the importance of compliance with safety procedures and precautions during a vessel's port stay, as these are regulated and implemented by each Company's management system.



Regulatory Framework

As per SOLAS V/23.4, Means shall be provided to ensure safe, convenient and unobstructed passage for any person embarking on, or disembarking from, the ship between the head of the pilot or accommodation ladder and the deck.

As per ISM Code 6.2, The Company should ensure that each ship is:

- manned with qualified, certificated and medically fit seafarers in accordance with national and international requirements; and
- appropriately manned in order to encompass all aspects of maintaining safe operations on board.

What went wrong ?

- The periodical rounds on deck by the Officer of the Watch as per Company's Procedures was not conducted, as it seems, in a proper way.
- The safety precautions were not taken as the gangway was unattended.
- Crew members underestimated the danger of non-compliance with Company's Procedures during port stay.
- The situation was not assessed - relating to the hazards that may occur during a loading operation.
- Absence of a Safety Culture.

OUR SUGGESTION

Prevention at Sea suggests the following indicative checks on deck that need to be made by the Watch Officer and the Deck Ratings during the vessel's Port Stay:

- Check that the gangway is placed safely.
- Check that the mooring lines are deployed correctly, their tension is normal and if needed slack or heave them up in order to be tended in a way that the lines will not be damaged.
- Check that all external doors, ports and windows in the accommodation, store and machinery spaces are closed.
- Check deck equipment such as pipes are free of any leakages.
- Check that drain plugs in spill containers fitted around all fuel, diesel and lubricating oil tank vents as well as hydraulic deck machinery are in place.

Note: If the above are not included in company procedures, then these procedures need to be updated.



BEST PRACTICE

Prevention at Sea suggests the following indicative checks on deck that need to be made by the Watch Officer and the Deck Ratings during the vessel's Port Stay:

- Ensure that all safety precautions prior to vessel's arrival to the port have been taken.
- Further training and familiarization to be provided to all Crew members.
- Ensure that procedures described in Company's Policy regarding watchkeeping at port are followed.
- Ensure that the hazards related to vessel's operations during port stay have been identified.

**REMEMBER: EVEN IF THE VESSEL IS AT PORT THERE ARE ALWAYS DANGERS
THAT HAVE TO BE PREVENTED FROM OCCURRING!**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US.



Prevention at Sea Ltd
52 Arch. Makariou III Avenue,
Ydrogios Tower, CY 6017
Larnaca - Cyprus

Tel: +357 24819800
Fax: +357 24819881



Tel: +30 210 64 37 637



info@preventionatsea.com



www.preventionatsea.com

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