

DON'T CURE PREVENT

ISSUE 25 DECEMBER 2024



LIFEBOAT DAMAGES DURING DRILLS



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CASE

During an onboard preparation for Port State Control, the PAS Auditor initiated a lifeboat drill with the aim to verify the familiarity and competency of onboard personnel against emergency lifeboat launching procedure.

During the lifeboat launching, the cradle stopper of the forward davit failed to open. As a result, the lifeboat started swinging, making forceful contact with the vessel's fish plate.

The lack of proper maintenance and adherence to inspection intervals can compromise personnel's safety and vessel's condition. If not addressed, this could reflect inadequate hazard identification and reduce vessel's readiness during emergencies.

The PAS Auditor provided on-the-job training and familiarization with proper lifeboat launching procedures as well as on-site assistance in relation to the maintenance of the davit and its components, including the cradle stopper.



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- **MSC.1/1206/REV.1**
Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats.
- **SOLAS CH. III/ REG. 20§11**
Maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.



WHAT WENT WRONG?

- ✗ Insufficient equipment maintenance.
- ✗ Periodic inspections have not been conducted diligently, leading to potential safety risks.
- ✗ Inadequate familiarity of onboard personnel with company's drills. (lifeboat lowering procedure)
- ✗ Inadequate situational awareness and risk perception.



OUR SUGGESTION

We suggest the following actions with the aim to prevent such cases from occurring:

- 🕒 Exercise critical thinking.
- 🕒 Ensure that assigned personnel conduct onboard inspections at proper intervals, as scheduled.
- 🕒 Promptly identify and address the required maintenance of onboard lifesaving equipment without delay.
- 🕒 Do not forget to test the launching appliances on a weekly basis and as per manufacturer's guidelines to verify their proper operation.
- 🕒 Ensure that the personnel in lifeboat is trained and familiar with the lifeboat lowering procedures.
- 🕒 Risk assess and review its results with all involved personnel before commencing the drill. Consider the prevailing weather conditions and any existing equipment defects.



BEST PRACTICE

- ✅ Follow maintenance procedures aligned with manufacturer's instructions and international regulations.
- ✅ Perform thorough inspection of the lifesaving appliances during the set intervals.
- ✅ Familiarize and deliver additional training to the onboard personnel involved in lowering of lifeboats.
- ✅ Circulate Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) alerts and campaigns to raise awareness.
- ✅ Gather feedback from onboard drills, analyze and share the results with the ship personnel. Emphasize areas requiring improvement, highlight good seamanship, and promote best practices.
- ✅ Highlight the importance of critical thinking, risk perception and situational awareness.

 **PREVENTION AT SEA**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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