



Merchant Shipping Directorate



SAFETY ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH FATAL FALLS INSIDE CARGO HOLDS

Information Notice 32

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the [Marine Safety Investigation Report No: 23/2018](#), highlighting the potential safety hazards related to critical fittings inside cargo holds.

It is important that critical fittings inside or leading to the cargo holds are inspected and maintained regularly. It must be ensured that cargo hold access hatches and their retaining hooks / pins, cargo hold access ladders, intermediate resting platforms and their safety rails and all associated covers with their retaining hooks / pins are thoroughly inspected and maintained as part of a maintenance regime applied on board.

Recognized Organizations are to pay particular attention to the above during surveys carried out on board.

The Safety Investigation Report aims to establish the circumstances and safety factors of an accident as a basis to make recommendations, in order to minimize the risk of such re-occurrences. Therefore, masters and operators of Maltese registered ships are advised to follow the recommendations contained therein.

It is recommended to bring this investigation report to the attention of all crew serving onboard Maltese registered vessels and address the importance of such fittings, taking into consideration the safety hazards and the related consequences.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

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Merchant Shipping Directorate
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