

Marine Safety Flash

A16-37 (14th October)

KLAW Break away activated inadvertently

Incident Overview

A support vessel was preparing to discharge methanol. After completing all necessary checklists and pressure testing, the vessel commenced the transfer and the “KLAW Break Away Coupling” on the vessel’s hose was activated inadvertently. The coupling functioned as per its design, with both flaps closing upon activation, and in doing so prevented a spillage.

KLAW Break Away Coupling photos after it broke apart:



Key Findings

A full investigation was conducted and it was found that the bolts securing the coupling failed unexpectedly, causing the coupling to activate. The root cause was found to be improper rigging of the connection during routine transfers in port. This led to lateral stress on the coupling and therefore undue strain on the bolts.

KLAW Coupling, showing closed flap and broken bolts after breaking away



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Recommendations

- To fully inspect the couplings on-board for any signs of damage and fatigue.
- Review and revise existing JSAs for operation to ensure these couplings are handled with care and must be kept horizontal during loading & discharging operations.
- Continue performing maintenance as per Manufacturer's Maintenance Manual.