

Marine Safety Flash

A13-04 (15th February)

Slip on Stairs



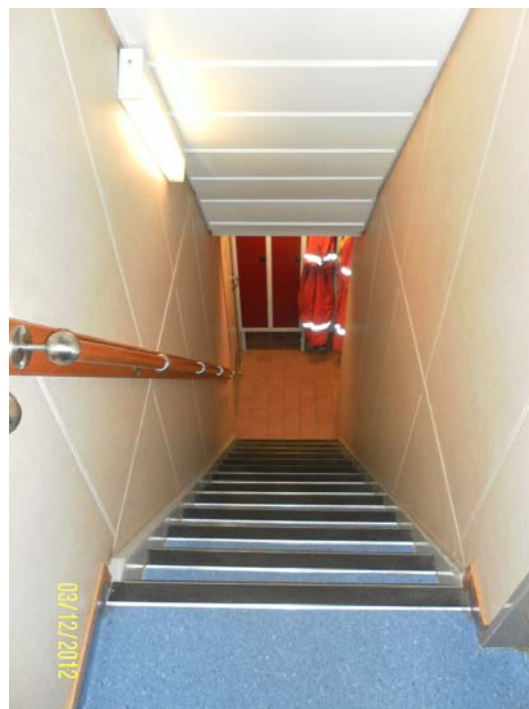
Incident Overview

A vessel was at sea and a crew member was traversing down stairs with lino covering, carrying a box of bottled water. At the 3rd last step from the bottom, the person slipped and landed on their posterior with a jolt.

The crew member was fortunately not injured.

Key Findings

- Failure to wear correct footwear. Person was wearing socks only as not to spoil the floor.
- Dynamic nature of a vessel at sea. Persons traversing stairs must ensure a minimum of 3 points of contact at all times. This warrants a hand to be free to hold/trail a railing.
- Lino flooring is generally buffed and an inherent hazard if the foot wear is incorrect.



Recommendations

- (1) PPE to be worn at any time when carrying out a task, regardless if inside the accommodation or not.
- (2) Boot coverings to be worn in the event cleanliness is a contributing factor regarding selection of PPE.
- (3) Items required to be moved around the ship to be manageable in terms of size and weight while maintaining 3 points of contact. Consider breaking down the goods to more manageable lifts and the use of buckets, or back packs for assistance.