

# Marine Safety Flash

## A13-06 (15<sup>th</sup> March)



### Elbow injury while traversing gangway

#### Incident Overview

During crew change of an offshore support vessel (OSV) alongside a quay, a crew member was traversing up a gangway with luggage when their elbow struck the side stanchions.

Slight swelling and bruising was later reported to the Master. Fluid built up in the joint overnight, resulting in a visit to the Doctor for examination. The Doctor found broken bone and cartilage in the elbow and the IP was repatriated for further medical treatment.



**Figure 1: Gangway similar to the one struck by injured person.**

#### Key Findings

- Gangway was shore-side provided equipment
- The gangway did not comply with the provisions contained in SOLAS regulation 3-9 ch2-1, IMO circular MSC1/1331 or Marine Orders part 21 app 9 in terms of minimum dimensions.
  - These regulations require the minimum breadth of a gangway to be 600mm
  - The gangway in question was measured to be 510mm wide

#### Recommendations

- Non-compliant gangways to be taken out of service and replaced with compliant equipment
- Reduce the size or profile of luggage, or look into alternative means of loading luggage on board. E.g. Ships crane with basket or cargo net.