

Marine Safety Flash

A13-13 (15th September)



Hazardous Substance Awareness

Incident Overview

A rigger was working in the bell hanger, tasked with cleaning the area and preparing for painting of the clump weight. Due to the fact that the clump weight had some grease on it, the supervisor suggested that this could be removed by the use of thinners. The rigger then went to the marine crew where he was supplied with a bottle of thinners as was requested. The rigger was also supplied with a nuisance mask and the man returned to the hanger to continue with cleaning of the clump weight. As the rigger started to clean the grease, he could “taste” the vapour through the mask and brought this to the attention of the vessel management.



Key Findings

- No TRA carried out for the activity which would have identified the use of de-greaser and not thinners.
- No proper control of substances hazardous to health
- The rigger was not made aware of the SDS
- Incorrect PPE used for the task
- Inappropriate container used for storing and issuing of the thinner (A plastic mineral water bottle)

Recommendations

- A JHA to be carried out when using hazardous substances and discussed with the work party
- Any requirement for paints, solvents etc under the control of the marine department shall be requested through the bridge and the type of substance and its use to be given
- The SDS must be made available to users, read and understood
- Correct PPE to be identified and made available for use of substances
- Only appropriate containers to be used for hazardous substances
- COSHH awareness training to be rolled out across the departments