

Marine Safety Flash

A15-25 (15th October)



Chain Chute

Incident Overview

During vessel operations after a chain recovery operation, the port chain chute had to be restowed temporarily to lift the port aft chain locker lid back into the secured position. 2 x IR's (AB's) were involved in lifting the chain chute with a certified and inspected 7t shackle and the port rail crane. When at the height of the lift, the lifting lug failed on the port chain chute causing it to fall back onto the main deck.

Prior to the incident, both IR's conducted a risk assessment with the Chief Officer and hazards were identified during the assessment and preventative measures were completed prior to starting the operation, which included cordoning off the main deck around the operation to prevent personnel being in the vicinity of the port chain chute.



Lifting lug with shackle



Damaged lifting lug

Key Findings

1. The chain chute was lifted and raised into position by the crane operator using the hoist function of the wire, and by extending the lower jib arm to provide forward momentum to position the chute into the stowed position.
2. When the chute was vertical, the operator continued extension of the jib to house the chute without lowering the crane wire and because the lifting point reached the limit of its fulcrum, this increased vertical tension on the wire thus overloading it and caused the lifting lug to fail as it was the weakest link.

Recommendations

1. On-board familiarisation and competency assessment carried out for any operator prior to being assessed as 'competent' to operate any deck cranes. This is to include the hazards and controls around a vertical lift with a static object at a critical point of the operation.
2. Consider alternative lifting arrangement for this operation (Remove lifting lug and replace with 2 x holes through the sides of chute where appropriate lifting slings with shackles can be used).
3. Review and discuss this incident with all relevant crew on board at next Safety Meeting.