

Marine Safety Flash



A16-17(13th May 2016)

Head Injury in Engine Room

Incident Overview

The Injured Person (IP) was conducting routine activities in the engine room. While walking past the Port Main Engine, directly under the air cooler system, the IP knocked his head against a valve handle which was at head height. The IP reported to the ship's doctor immediately for treatment and received 3 stitches.

Key Findings

- The design of the engine room has limited overhead height.
- The vessel was recently in dry dock, where this valve was removed for maintenance and replaced without protection.
- Lack of PPE / incorrect PPE. The IP was unable to wear hardhat together with ear muffs.
- The engine room is a congested work environment: the valve was exposed at head height level without warnings or barriers.

Recommendations

- Review of engine room JHA to ensure potential impact hazards, implement adequate controls or barriers, including safety padding and caution tape where appropriate.
- Mandatory requirement for hardhats/bump caps to be worn in the engine room. Hardhats with attached earmuffs to be supplied.
- Shipboard Induction to include identification of hazards associated with the work environment (Engine Room).