



SAFETY BULLETIN

Safety at Survey Sites



Our Safety Bulletins are outcomes of investigations into specific incidents or near misses occurred during the course of survey within the ship/ shipyard or port/ workshop and aim to provide recommendations to our surveyors, to prevent such incidents from reoccurring in the future.

During the past half year, the below noted incidents have highlighted the need for heightened vigilance to ensure required safety standards at work site whilst undertaking surveys.

1. **Accident during accessing the Engine room through entrance hatch:**

During the general examination and rounds of the High-speed passenger craft, the Engine room was being accessed through the Engine room entrance hatch which is held in position with a magnetic lock & leads to a stairway for entry. The inadvertent operation of switch by accompanying surveyor resulted in release of entrance hatch & in injury to chest area of attending surveyor accompanied with a loss of man hours.

Learnings:

- ❖ Some salient learning points which need highlighting are summarized below:
- The entrance hatch should have been physically locked in open position by a metal 'pin' or similar provided arrangements & in case of absence of provision of same then by securing with rope or other appropriate means.
- Requisite attendance & proper monitoring by ship personnel should be ensured.

2. **Improper scaffolding arrangements/guard rails rigging:**

Following unsafe conditions noted while utilizing scaffolding /guard rails during survey attendance:

- Scaffolding arrangements not provided as per requirements and not certified by safety department.
- Scaffolding platforms not guarded by rails and access ladders not secured as per

requirement.

- Large openings on the decks not barricaded.
- The safety guard rail found missing on the main deck near the gangway ladder.
- Scaffolding material not kept properly secured.
- Scaffolding permit tag found expired at aft bulkhead staging.
- The Handrail stanchions of the Accommodation Ladder Bottom Platform not secured properly.
- The Service Boat side railing welding detached.

Learnings:

- ❖ Surveyors to ensure that permanent/temporary means of access to structures or any other places are safe and certified as applicable. Surveyors should refuse the surveys if access to any structure is not considered safe.
- ❖ Maintaining a continuous three-point contact can possibly obviate/mitigate the consequences.
- ❖ It is advised ship staff should be always available alongside when carrying out an inspection & lead to be taken by ship staff & surveyors to follow subsequently.

3. Unsafe working around suspended loads:

Following incidents noted with respect to unsafe working around suspended loads during survey attendance:

- The yard worker for ease of operating the chain block assembly climbed and stood on top of the bottom plate which was being lifted.
- While coming out of Waterjet Compartment, there was an ongoing Crane movement shifting heavy solid weight over the WT access hatch, while the surveyor was coming out of the WT hatch.

Learnings:

- ❖ Surveyors to be always vigilant for unsafe acts/practices/conditions.
- ❖ Stop work authority to be exercised by surveyors till the required safety conditions are reestablished.

4. Malfunction in elevator operations:

- Closing of the elevator's doors did not stop & doors reopen on detecting the presence of a person in their opening gap.
- Person stranded in lift due to elevator malfunction & possible non-activation of alarm on pressing the emergency call button.

Learnings & good practices:

- ❖ Elevator operation is to be treated as critical & caution should be exercised when utilizing same.
- ❖ Be aware of your surroundings, especially when entering or exiting; avoid overcrowding; and know what to do in case of an emergency.
- ❖ It's crucial to never try to force open a stuck elevator door or exit an elevator between floors.
- ❖ Regular maintenance as per OEM instructions should be carried out & elevators not to be utilized if any malfunction suspected till same is checked by authorized personnel.
- ❖ Don't use the elevators to escape from premises in case of any emergency situation in building.

5. Additional Learnings:

- ❖ Surveyors should avoid proactive involvement in any activity on board which is to be performed by vessel's Crew/Service suppliers.
- ❖ Also, Surveyors are to use their own judgment and situational awareness during surveys rather than accepting crew testimonials/servicing report with respect to assuring the safety aspects.

