

Crew fatality caused by a deck lifter onboard M.V. Dyvi Adriatic on 30.6.2005

1. The Incident

- 1.1 At about 0600 (local time) on 30 June 2005, when the vessel was standing by at the position 350 05.4'N 1290 38.9'E about 25 miles off Ulsan, Korea await for berthing instruction, the crew members of Dyvi Adriatic carried out car deck "lifting" operation with 2 deck lifters, No. 1 and No. 2 on Deck No. 5 and Deck No. 7 respectively. During the "lifting" operation on Deck No. 5 at about 0920, a crew member was accidentally crushed by the No. 1 deck lifter.
- 1.2 The injured crew member was admitted to hospital and was certified dead by the attending doctor.

2. Findings

- 2.1 Both deck lifters had been serviced 6 to 8 months ago. The push buttons had been replaced with one combined lever-switch controlling the forward-neutral-backing movements (Fig). It is not known when the modification has been carried out. The lever-switch handle was rather long that could easily be dislocated by coincidence.
- 2.2 The probable cause of the accident was the Deck Cadet dislocated the long handled combined lever-switch by coincident resulted the No. 1 deck lifter moving forward. The moving deck lifter crushed the deceased who stood in between the bulkhead and the front bumper of the No. 1 deck lifter. The crew did not assess adequately the wave condition before carrying out the emergency recovery of mooring ropes at the aft deck.
- 2.3 It was suspected that as the Deck Cadet got off from the deck lifter, his body touched the Combined lever-switch. It triggered the No. 1 deck lifter to move forward since the hand brake is not designed to hold the deck lifter in position with the gear engaged and engine running at full rpm.

3. Lessons

- 3.1 The driver should ensure area of deck lifter movement is clear of obstructions and personnel.
- 3.2 The driver of the deck lifter should be properly trained and should keep an eye on the accelerator until the deck lifter was fully lifted on the stabilizers.
- 3.3 The management company of Dyvi Adriatic should ensure that all concerned personnel working on board the vessel fully understand the safety instructions and devices for the safe operation of the deck lifter before it is being operated.
- 3.4 The deck lifter should be properly maintained; all defects if found should immediately be repaired and reported to the company. Furthermore, the deck lifter should not be modified without the approval of the maker /company.



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