

A mooring gang crew was crushed to death while working on government mooring buoy A43 on 6 April 2007

1. The Incident

- 1.1 On 6 April 2007, while a mooring gang of three were standing on the government mooring buoy A43 to secure the anchor chain of *m.v. "Metropolis"* to the mooring buoy, the mooring eye fitting was lifted up from the trunk opening and the mooring buoy was tilted.
- 1.2 The tilting of the mooring buoy caused two mooring gang crew fell into the water and one other fell and was trapped in the trunk opening of the mooring buoy. The latter was crushed to death by the mooring eye fitting when it returned to the trunk opening.

2. Lessons

- 2.1 The mooring operation poses significant inherent risks to the mooring gang crew. They are required to remain on the mooring buoy for a prolonged period. Therefore working procedures for the mooring operation to be reviewed with an aim to reduce the risk of the mooring operation.
- 2.2 Excessive discrepancy on the settings of propeller pitch angles existed between the local position and the bridge control console. The propellers still produced thrust even the pitch control was put to "zero". Propeller pitch indicators should be check periodically for accuracy.
- 2.3 Necessary steps to be taken to enhance the safety awareness of the mooring gang crew safety.
- 2.4 The communication among the working teams was poor during the mooring operation. Person in charge of the works should ensure effective communication among the working teams be established during the mooring operation.