

MAIB SAFETY BULLETIN 4/2000

Launching and recovery of rescue boats

Pride of Bilbao

on 1 July 2000

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MAIB

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This document, containing a safety recommendation has been produced for marine safety purposes only on the basis of information available to date.

The Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 1999 provide for the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents to make recommendations at any time during the course of an investigation if, in his opinion, it is necessary or desirable to do so.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) is carrying out an investigation into an accident involving a rescue boat. While bringing the boat into the stowed position, following an exercise, it fell into the water. Two of its three crew were injured, one seriously. MAIB will publish a full report on completion of the investigation.

Features of the rescue boat's off-load suspension hooks, and the on-load release for its painter, have given the inspector cause to be concerned that they could be used inappropriately. Although the causes of this accident have yet to be fully established, these concerns are identified in this Bulletin to alert owners, masters and crews to a potential hazard.



J S Lang
Rear Admiral
Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents

Background

A three-man rescue boat crew from the passenger vessel *Pride of Bilbao* was completing a manoverboard exercise in port. The boat was being recovered by its davits and was being hoisted. Shortly before it reached the stowed position it fell some **25** metres into the water. One man managed to jump on to the ship; the two others fell into the water and were injured.

The precise cause of the accident is still being investigated, but the initial findings show that the forward lifting ring was capable of being attached to the painter release hook rather than the lifting hook.

No matter whether this happened during this accident, there is a risk that such a connection can be made. Not only were the two hooks very close together, but the size of the painter hook was compatible with the lifting rings. It was therefore possible for the lifting rings to be placed under the painter release hook which was not intended to support the boat's weight.



Safety Recommendation

All owners and masters are recommended to:

1. Check whether boat lifting rings are able to fit the painter release hooks. If the painter release hooks can be closed with the lifting rings fitted, then immediate precautions and procedures should be taken to prevent this Connection being made.
2. Crew members should be given training in such procedures which should be practised at drills

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