

SYNOPSIS

The accident occurred at Tenerife, the last port of call on the cruise itinerary of the passenger cruise ship *Arcadia*, before she returned to Southampton. It happened during a routine lifeboat drill. As No 5 lifeboat was being recovered after exercise, it lowered uncontrollably into the water still attached to the fall wires.

It was found that the winch failed because the lubricating oil used for the freewheel sprag coupling was too viscous and did not match the type of oil specified by the manufacturers of the davit.

The electrical engineer was injured after this accident when the lifeboat falls were being wound back onto the drum. The winch hand crank handle had been left attached to the winch drive. Consequently, because the electrical cut-out switch for the handle had been by-passed, the winch was started up spinning the handle which hit the electrical officer on the head.