
SAFETY ALERT

MOORING CLEAT FAILURES

Notice to: Owners, Managers, Skippers, Designers, Naval Architects, Builders, Repairers and Chandlers

Summary

Key Points –

- Owners of small boats should immediately inspect fittings and their supporting structure used in mooring.
- Mild steel fastenings through decks should be checked visually.
- The load on moorings should be minimised.

Introduction / Background

A number of recent incidents, including a fatality, have raised concern because of the failure of the attachment of mooring bollards or cleats to the deck.

Investigations indicate:

The under deck stiffening was inadequate.

Holding down bolts were corroded.

There was no planned maintenance regime in place; and,

Berthing operations were placing excessive force on moorings when coming alongside.

Key Learning Points:

Owners and operators should:

Inspect mooring fittings to ensure that they are:

Of adequate strength;

Adequately stiffened under the deck (stiffeners and backing plates);

Adequately secured under deck; and All

in good condition (deck, supporting structure, and fittings):

Examine mild steel bolts subjected to a salty atmosphere annually, and if necessary replace every two years or replace with stainless steel bolts. Similarly, where the attachment is welded, a careful examination should be made.

When berthing a boat, as far as practical minimise the load on the moorings. For example, it is preferable to turn the boat to stem the stream before manoeuvring alongside and reduce speed to the minimum before stopping by use of the mooring ropes.

Always be aware of hazards involved in berthing, especially from ropes and wires coming under tension, and the need to keep a safe distance from them.

Pay attention to the type, size, quality and condition of mooring ropes.

Ensure that shore fixtures are suitable.

DESIGNERS,BUILDERS, SUPPLIERS & REPAIRERS should:

ensure that fittings, their connections and the supporting structure of vessels are designed and constructed to withstand the anticipated loading.

Risk Assessments:

Guidance on carrying out risk assessments is contained within Marine Guidance Note MGN 20 (M+F).

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