

ADDRESSING COMMON FACTORS IN MARITIME

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Editorial

In this edition, we focus on three critical factors that affect maritime safety: communication failures, the pressure to meet commercial demands and inadequate supervision. These recurring issues underscore the urgent need for improved practices and a stronger safety culture within the industry.

Firstly, effective communication plays a vital role in ensuring safe operations. In the case of the power shutdown incident (M2109), the lack of communication between the chief engineer and the bridge crew resulted in an unintended loss of power. Similarly, incidents involving engine failure (M2117) and incorrect information during the master-pilot exchange (M2118) highlight the risks of inadequate communication. The incident involving communication difficulties (M2113) highlights the significance of proficiency in maritime English for effective teamwork and emergency response.

Secondly, the pressure to meet commercial demands often creates conflicts with safety considerations. While many companies claim that safety is their top priority, this commitment is not consistently reflected in the commercial demands placed on vessels or in the time and resources allocated to them.

Lastly, insufficient supervision and oversight can contribute to unsafe practices. The incident involving inadequate supervision and risk assessment of painting the ship's side (M2107) clearly illustrates the dangerous consequences of prioritising schedules over safety. Furthermore, the collision with a yacht (M2114) underscores the importance of maintaining a proper lookout and remaining vigilant in congested waters.

To address these issues, the maritime industry must foster a culture of safety and open communication. Companies should invest in continuous training and development to ensure proficiency in critical areas such as communication and risk assessment. Supervisors and officers must take proactive measures to guarantee the safety of their crew and operations, including adequate supervision and adherence to established procedures.

Moreover, regulatory bodies should play a substantial role in enforcing safety standards and promoting best practices. Regular inspections and assessments can help identify areas for improvement and hold companies accountable for maintaining high safety standards.

By addressing these key themes and implementing necessary changes, the maritime industry can enhance safety, prevent accidents, and safeguard the well-being of crews and vessels.

Until the next edition – stay safe!



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