

Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 09/12

Issued: 28th April 2009

Subject: Lifeboat D-Ring Failure

Summary:

A recent incident in offshore operations highlighted some actions related to lifeboat/Fast Rescue Craft (FRC) maintenance that should be taken immediately. During the incident, the lifeboat fall D-ring failed while load testing the lifeboat and wire fall assembly. It was found that the failed D-ring was non-OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) and was of welded construction rather than the forged construction originally supplied by the OEM.

The immediate actions resulting from this incident are to:

- 1) Only use OEM equipment on new and existing lifeboat/FRC and lifeboat/FRC fall assemblies, except when changes have been subject to the appropriate MOC and approved by the relevant Marine Authority; and
- 2) Conduct all load testing, maintenance and inspection of lifeboat/FRC and lifeboat/FRC fall assemblies using detailed procedures that have been subject to a risk assessment and approved by the relevant Marine Authority.

