

## High potential near miss: dropped object – spark arrestor

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An 18kg spark arrestor fell 16 metres from the funnel stack and landed on the FRC deck.

### What happened?

No-one was injured but this was considered a serious near miss. The spark arrestor was installed at the direction of the charterer only days before the incident. It was installed by a third-party sub-contractor; it was a requirement for working in the field and was new to the vessel.

#### IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Line of fire



## What went wrong?

- The spark arrester became dislodged due to exhaust pressure and vibration.
- The clamp was not secured tightly enough.
- The mechanism of securing was pop rivets.
- Vessel management did not manage the quality control of the third-party work when the spark arrester was installed.

## What were the causes?

- A causal factor was:
  - installation (fixing) of the spark arrester was not adequate or to industry standards and not quality checked by the vessel crew or management.
- Root causes were:
  - failure of vessel operator to conduct a management of change (MoC) process for spark arrester being installed.
  - the vessel operator did not follow contractor management procedures as

the third-party installer was not contracted by the vessel.

## What lessons were learnt?

- There should be a management of change (MoC) process applied to all significant modifications or additions to vessel plant and equipment. This should include quality control to verify installation meets industry standards.
- Contractor management principles still apply even if there is no actual contractual relationship between the vessel operator and the third party doing the work.

## What actions were taken?

- Review and update of safety management system (SMS) documentation (management of change (MoC) and Contractor Management processes) to ensure this scenario involving third parties is properly dealt with.
- Additional MoC training provided to vessel management teams.

Members may wish to refer to:

- [IMCA HSS001 – Guidelines for management of change](#)

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