

Positioning of emergency positioning indicating radio beacon

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IMCA recently received details of an incident involving a dropped object.

What happened?

A vessel was undergoing a port state inspection in conjunction with a radio surveyor. During the inspection of the EPRIB (Electronic Positioning Indicator Radio Beacon), it was noted that it was a type that had to be removed from the holding bracket. The bracket was a spring clip type with a designated amount of tension that was mounted on the outside handrail on the monkey island. When the surveyor unclipped the EPRIB, the spring tension of the bracket forced it out of his grip resulting in the unit falling to the main deck below (approximately 50 feet). This could have resulted in major injury to personnel.

Recommendations

The recommendation made by the party concerned to members was to carry out a swift review of the position of EPRIBs on board their vessels and to move the holding brackets to a safer location if necessary.

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