

Unsafe mooring practices

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During a routine marine inspection of a vessel it was observed that rope lines had been attached to the mooring winch control levers to facilitate 'remote' operation of the winches.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Bypassing safety controls

What happened?

The observed practice is inappropriate and unsafe. There are a number of very good reasons why, including:

- accidentally pulling on the wrong line and performing an unintended action
- crew member getting entangled in the lines and inadvertently operating the winch
- lack of proper control of winches.

Mooring and unmooring a vessel is inherently a potentially dangerous operation and requires crews to be in full control of all associated equipment.



Recommendations

Adequate personnel under the supervision of a certified officer should be available for:

- handling of equipment and gear
- communications
- directing the winchman.

Members are referred to the following IMCA publications:

- [IMCA HSS029, M214](#) – *Mooring practice safety guidance for offshore vessels when alongside in ports and harbours*

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