

## MAIB: Crush fatality during lifting operations

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The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) has published [Report 12/2021](#) into a fatal crush accident which occurred while a gantry crane was moving a hatch cover, on board the general cargo vessel Cimbris, at Antwerp, Belgium, on 14 July 2020.

### What happened?

A crew member was fatally crushed when he became trapped between the vessel's gantry crane and a cargo hatch cover.

No one saw the crew member position himself between the moving gantry crane and the hatch cover, but his likely intent was to assess the progress being made by his team working in the hold.



### What went wrong?

- The crew member was fatally crushed between the gantry crane and the hatch cover because he placed himself in the path of the moving crane and the crane did not stop.
- The crew member almost certainly knew the gantry crane was moving but was probably confident that he could achieve his objective and move out of its path.

#### IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Line of fire



Safe mechanical lifting



Bypassing safety controls

- The ship's gantry crane operator did not stop the crane because he did not know the crew member was in the way.

## What were the causes?

- The Chief Officer did not have a full view of the crane's path from his control position.
- Contrary to the vessel's documented procedures, a second crew member was not used to act as a lookout or banksman.
- The hatch cover lifting operation was not properly planned, adequately supervised, or executed in a safe manner.
- Communication between the ship's crew and port crew was poor and the safety culture demonstrated by both was weak.

Excellent detailed report including many informative photographs, [here](#).

## Actions taken

The company involved:

- Made it mandatory that there be a second person to act as safety sentry during the operation of cranes, gantry cranes or hatch cover machinery.
- Reviewed its safety procedures for such operations.
- Issued a safety instruction card, defining the role of safety lookout for all crane operations.

Members may wish to refer to:

- IMCA HSS019 [Guidelines for lifting operations](#)

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