

SAFETY ALERT

Ref No: SA-001-2023

Date: 23 January 2023

Subject: Non-injurious Incident During Pilot Disembarkation

What happened:

A bulk carrier was departing the Port of Tyne with two pilots onboard; a senior pilot supported by a trainee.

During the senior pilot's disembarkation approximately halfway down the ladder, the lashings securing the ladder to the vessels side parted and it came away. The pilot successfully made it to the bottom assisted by the pilot vessel deckhand and was uninjured.

Preceding events:

The pilot vessel crew, whilst alongside the bulk carrier reported that the vessels crew had made fast the pilot ladder and lowered the access gangway. But with no way of securing the gangway to the vessels side the crew moved the pilot ladder further aft to ensure space and sufficient available securing points for the gangway. Both ladder and gangway were then secured to the vessels side.

The disembarkation arrangement was assessed from the pilot vessel (not a detailed, nor close inspection given the freeboard of the vessel) and it was deemed that the arrangement was rigged correctly.

Bulk Carrier response:

The master was informed of the incident when the senior pilot reached the deck of the pilot vessel, and the ladder was secured correctly with new lashings prior to the trainee pilots incident free disembarkation.

PSS are grateful to the Port of Tyne for sharing the information at the base of this Alert.

It should be noted that this is purely a summary of the incident at this time as the Port's investigations continue, however Members may wish to use the presented information in a review of their ways of working. As further information becomes available this Alert may well be updated.