

SAFETY ALERT

- TECHNICAL No. 2

QUICK MOORING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Recently a serious accident occurred on a domestic passenger vessel when a mooring hook being used for “quick mooring” failed and this led to serious injury of a crew member. The vessel was “steaming on a single spring” at the time.

Operators of all vessels utilising quick mooring techniques should ensure that an adequate **RISK ASSESSMENT** has been carried out before using quick methods of mooring. Amongst items to be considered should be:

- **INSPECTION & SERVICE** of all components of mooring equipment at regular intervals.
- **ASSESS** the mooring ropes, fittings and deck equipment for the additional loads that they are subject to whilst the vessel is “steaming on a spring” given the prevailing conditions.
- **USE** of only warps and quick mooring equipment that is fit for purpose.
- Special fittings should be **DESIGNED** and manufactured to withstand a greater breaking load than the warp to which they are attached, and tested as appropriate.
- When loading or unloading passengers, vessels should, whenever possible, be **PROPERLY SECURED** alongside using ropes fore and aft in addition to any “steaming on a spring”. Otherwise failure of a single component or the engines could result in the vessel moving and increasing the risk to passengers.
- If engine use is needed to maintain position ensure that only the **MINIMUM POWER** necessary to keep the vessel in position is used.
- **CARE** to ensure that undue strain is not put on mooring equipment.
- Being particularly vigilant if **NYLON WARPS** are used; these can fail without warning and recoil with particular force.
- **KEEPING** personnel and passengers clear of “snap-back zones” when equipment is under load, where practical.

CHECK LIST

- ✓ Mooring equipment is of adequate Safe Working Load.
- ✓ All mooring equipment should be checked regularly as part of the vessels Safety Management System.
- ✓ Vessels secured fore and aft when loading or unloading passengers
- ✓ Mooring lines are properly secured to adequate mooring points.
- ✓ All persons kept clear of moorings under load and out of “snap-back zones”, where practical.
- ✓ All staff to be aware of the hazards of the operation and any risk reduction measures in place.