



Merchant Shipping Directorate



WIRE ROPES MAINTENANCE

Information Notice 35

Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters, Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations
This notice revokes Information Notice 10.

The Directorate wishes to draw the attention of all concerned to the findings of the Safety Investigation Reports No. [08/2014](#), [19/2017](#) and [14/2020](#) involving the failure of wire ropes. The investigation reports highlight the dangers of sheathed steel wires on board ships due to restricted access to the wire rope for a thorough inspection and the possible factors for corrosion in wire ropes.

All concerned are to check the condition of all lashings, lifting slings/strops and other loose gear as specified in the manufacturer's instructions in relation to the use, size and construction of the wire. All Flexible Steel Wire Ropes (FSWR) and Extra Flexible Steel Wire Ropes (EFSWR) should conform to the design requirements recognised by a relevant International Standard.

Companies should consider means to ensure that the inspection of lifting slings or the FPD encased in plastic sheathing and the associated risks due to sheathing, are addressed in the Company's Safety Management System (SMS).

All the relevant lifting equipment and loose gear should be thoroughly examined, operational tested, repaired and overhauled during the Annual Inspection in accordance with the requirements of the IMO adopted Resolution MSC.402(96).

Wire failure was the critical factor in all the above-mentioned accidents. This highlights the importance of:

- Ships' crews to follow established maintenance procedures, being observant during all maintenance tasks and being vigilant at all times.
- Assessing the current maintenance procedures to ensure their continued effectiveness.

Malta Transport Centre
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360
Email: mershipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt
www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration



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- Effective crew familiarization and training, to enhance the competency of the crew while conducting test procedures and training drills.
- That ferrules should be compressed at an adequate pressure in order to securely fix the strands without the risk of spreading and that the wires inside the ferrule have to remain without sheathing.
- Specific inspections concentrated on signs of deterioration and damage.
- Time intervals between subsequent inspections may be reduced by the competent person depending on the condition of the FSWR / EFSWR.

To this effect, attention should also be drawn to the [Tokyo MoU Safety Bulletin](#), highlighting the dangers of sheathed steel wires on board ships.

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17 August 2020

Malta Transport Centre
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360
Email: mershipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt
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