

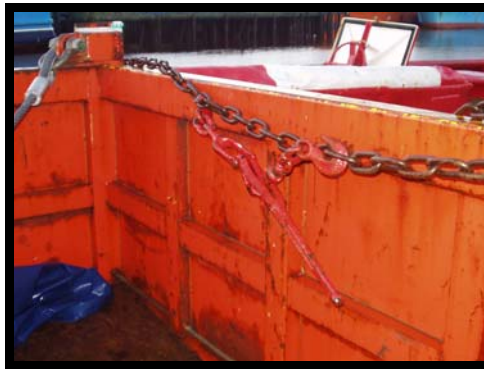
## Follow-Up to Safety Flash 08-20

Original Issued: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Re-Issued: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Subject: Lever Chain Binder

### INJURY DURING RELEASE OF CARGO SECURING CHAINS



During the removal of a cargo securing chain from a 'Half Height' Container, a Crewmember received a serious face injury when the Lever Chain Binder ("Chain Stretcher") used to tension the chain sprung open suddenly.

The Crewmember was using a metre long section of scaffold pole as a 'cheater bar' on the end of the lever to allow him to apply enough force to release the Chain Binder. The lever released suddenly and the section of the scaffold pole hit the Crewmember with considerable force resulting in a number of facial injuries.

- It is thought that the movement of the cargo due to the adverse weather conditions may have resulted in a significant increase in the tension in the securing chain.
- The hazard presented by the tension in the chain was not fully appreciated by the injured party.
- The injured party used a scaffold tube as a 'cheater bar' to increase the leverage applied to the chain tensioner.

The injured party did not adopt a safe position during the release of the Chain Binder and pulled the 'Cheater Bar' towards his own face.

- 1, Masters must ensure that all personnel involved in cargo securing/releasing operations are made aware of the incident and are reminded of the hazards due to the tension in the chains.
- 2, Masters must ensure that all personnel involved in cargo securing/releasing are familiar with the correct operation of the particular chain tensioners used and that the all deck cargo is secured correctly.
- 3, Masters must ensure that personnel involved in cargo securing/releasing do not use extension "cheater bars" to increase the force applied to the lever on the chain tensioner.
- 4, Masters must review the vessels risk assessments and ensure that if chain tensioners (and in particular Lever Chain Binders) are used that the hazards during their tensioning and release are identified and recorded and that the specified controls include, as a minimum:
  - Awareness of tension/sudden release of tension
  - Safe positioning during release of the tension
  - Use of methods of ensuring a controlled release of the residual tension in the chain and the "chain stretcher"
- 5, Masters are reminded that it is important that an effective Tool Box Talk is conducted prior to any task where there is a risk of injury to personnel. The Tool Box Talk will not only enable the personnel carrying out the work to review the identified hazards and controls but, if conducted properly (as a group activity), will also allow the participants to discuss the work and to exchange/share their knowledge and experience.