

Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 09/20

Issued: 14th June 2009

Subject: Structural Damage to Drill Cuttings Container

Summary:

This Safety Alert has been issued to raise awareness to two potentially very dangerous occurrences that have recently occurred. It concerns damage to Drill Cuttings Containers, which have been structurally damaged whilst in use.



The damage is such that it could affect the structural integrity of the container, including the lifting points, and could therefore result in a very serious incident, including potentially; a dropped load, very serious personal injury, further damage to the container and to other equipment, and environmental spillage and pollution.

It would appear that the likely cause of this damage is during lifting operations, where one container is allowed to collide with the corner post of another, probably at high speed. This not only causes the damage shown but could also result in other incidents with suspended loads under control.

Recommended Actions:

Care should be taken with all lifting operations to prevent collisions occurring.

Where a container is damaged, and that damage could affect its structural integrity, then the container should be isolated from use and arrangements made to safely return it to the supplier for assessment and repair.