



# Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 15-03

**Issued: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Subject: MoB during crew transfer between two ERRVs**

One afternoon in November at approximately 14:00hrs a crew transfer was taking place between two company vessels. It was decided between the vessel Masters that the transfer would take place using the Daughter craft from one vessel, transferring the crewmember directly to the Rescue Zone of the other vessel. It was whilst this transfer was taking place the crew-member fell from the Rescue Zone / Daughter craft into the water requiring him to be rescued by the crew of the Daughter Craft.

Upon investigation it was found that;

- Though procedures were followed using Company Guidelines, the choice of method of transfer that was selected by both vessels Masters was shown to be inadequate.
- The method used by one vessel to create a lee for the transfer could be more than questionable.
- The method chosen for the transfer is not a method that the boat crew and the vessel receiving crew would have been familiar with

## **Actions taken by submitting Company**

- Company procedures for vessel transfers to be reviewed and updated. Options of conducting vessel transfers to be revised. Included in the tool box talk there will be the requirement to complete a full and comprehensive safety brief. The procedures to be developed in a way that there can be no ambiguity as to the optimum choice to be used for the transfer. The procedures will make it clear that the decision to conduct any transfer has to be that of the vessels Masters concerned, they alone will be responsible for reviewing each other's Risk Assessment and ensuring that procedures are fully complied with in accordance with Company Instructions.
- Transfer of personnel at sea is only to be undertaken when there is no other option or operational circumstances dictate. Masters are to consider their options for transfer very carefully and fully plan before implementing an option and executing the transfer. The preferred method of transfer will always be the option of least risk. The Company procedures will be amended to reflect this. If there is an option for the vessel to return to port as opposed to conducting a transfer at sea then this option must be considered.

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