

Safety Alert

Number: 19-15

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Subject: Unsafe Lifting Operations – Potential Dropped Object

What Happened / Narrative

An observation was recorded during a routine vessel crane lifting operation.

The lift was a pallet laden with chemical drums, being lifted from the quayside onto the vessel using webbing slings. The only method of securing was plastic film, and the lift was not lifting level.

- Significant potential existed for this lift to fail resulting in the load falling from height
- Slings are not a suitable method for lifting pallets by crane. Pallets have no Safe Working Load and are not designed to be lifted by crane with slings
- Using slings to lift pallets can result in failure of the pallet structure, resulting in loss of loads

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

- Vessel operators and crews to review the information in this document, and to consider their own arrangements for the safe lifting of palletised material onto vessels
- As a minimum, all pallets should be secured with cargo nets to prevent loss of containment and dropped objects
NOTE: cargo nets are only to contain the load and prevent dropped objects however, nets will not prevent structural pallet damage from sling lifts
- Consideration should be given to the use of approved attachments (such as crane fork attachments) for the safe lifting of pallets by crane

Photographs / Supporting Information



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