

Safety Alert

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Subject: Collision During Port Manoeuvring

What Happened / Narrative

During manoeuvring operations within the port, the vessel was being operated from the aft console. Once the vessel was clear from the quayside, the bridge team changed positions from the aft console to the Forward console.

However, once the change was executed, they discovered that there was no control over the bow thrusters and that they were thrusting to Port.

The master attempted to take control back at the Aft position but was unable to prevent the vessel making contact with another vessel that was moored beside them.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

Although there were change-over procedures posted and the bridge team were aware of the process, a mistake was made during the change-over.

This error meant that the full control was lost.

A large number of Near Misses and Incidents have this or similar root causes.

The changeover process is a routine task that the bridge team carry out on a very regular basis. However, this means that complacency can arise or that the process could be different between vessels. Both these facts could lead to failures that can have severe consequences if not executed correctly.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

- Each vessel is to hold a "Time Out for Safety" with the complete bridge team to discuss this incident and the vessel specific change over procedure to ensure that;
 1. The procedure is fit for purpose
 2. The bridge team fully understands it
 3. The bridge team are fully aware of what actions need to be taken to resolve the situation if control is not transferred correctly.
- Each Master is to ensure that special emphasis is given to the changeover procedure during any new bridge team members induction.
- Each Master is to ensure that the changing of control positions is tested on a regular basis, such as during the Steering Gear tests.

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