

Safety Alert

Number: 22-06

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Subject: Unsafe Cargo Transfer Using Pallets

What Happened / Narrative

An MSF member reported two incidents during deck cargo transfer operations involving pallets:

1. Improper use of the pallet – the lifting strops were passed through the side (red arrows) allowing the tension to be placed on the deck boards. The plate cooler weighing approximately 300 lbs. was centered on the pallet. The stress on the deck boards allowed them to separate from the pallet eventually failing and allowing the cargo to fall to the deck.
2. The second incident involved loose items placed on a pallet to be loaded on-board. During the lift, the pallet came in contact with slings attached to a gangway stowed in the immediate area. The contact cause the pallet to shift allowing a box of copy paper to fall off and down to a connex box on the deck.

Fortunately, there were no personnel in the immediate vicinity during these dropped object events.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

Both incidents were different in nature but did have some similar attributes:

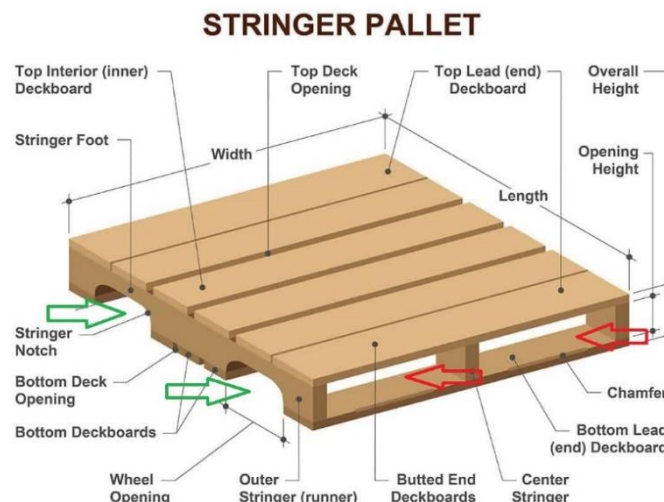
- The Task Planning – Risk Assessment / Toolbox Talk did not identify specific hazards associated with the operation.
- Complacency – failure to recognize a hazardous situation developing

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

It is important to understand that pallets have no safe working load (SWL) and have the potential for shifting if the load is not evenly distributed, or external forces are present during the lifting operation.

Loose items on pallets should never be transported via crane to and from vessel without having the items properly secured to prevent shifting and falling. Alternatives should be considered for transporting loose items such as a cargo box designed for the task or cargo nets.

Photographs / Supporting Information



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