

Safety Alert

Number: 23-11

Published: 01/08/2023

Subject: Dropped Object from Offshore Platform to Supply Vessel

What Happened / Narrative

During routine supply vessel operations, an Offshore Platform deck crew member was tasked with establishing barriers for safe lifting of cargo onto the platforms weather deck. On extraction of the fixed barrier tape the handle was observed to eject from the mechanism and fall, eventually landing 45m below onto the supply vessels deck.

Nobody on the supply vessel was on the deck at the time of the drop, and whilst this is good practice when working deck cargo, the drop could have occurred when the crew were on deck.

The handle weighing 0.278kg fell a total 45m presenting a potential for fatality in the drops calculator.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

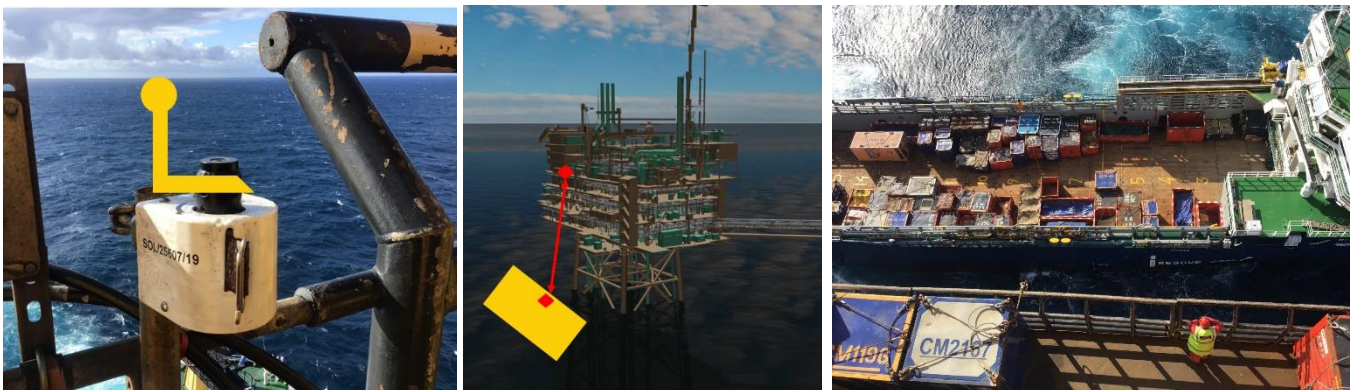
Upon investigation it was found that this type of barrier tape is only used by the Offshore Platform deck crew and are all fixed to the outboard handrails near laydown areas. The handle was fastened with a grub screw to a round shaft with no keyway or secondary retaining mechanism. The design is such that as the tape spools out the handle spins; this provided the lateral force to allow the handle to eject out over the handrail and down onto the supply vessel deck. A review of other new and older mechanisms onboard found similar loose moving handles but none that would readily fall out.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

Review Offshore Platforms areas for similar barrier tape mechanisms and check integrity of handle fixtures. Consider relocation away from handrails to remove the potential for rotating mechanisms to fail and fall to levels below, the sea or supply vessels.

- Discuss with your teams, what activities or work do you do near handrails when supply vessels are on location. Consider that relatively light objects become a potential fatality when dropped from an Offshore Platform to sea level.

Photographs / Supporting Information



The information contained within this Safety Alert and the associated MSF web site is provided in good faith for the benefit of our members and does not constitute and is not intended to constitute professional advice or any form of formal representation on behalf of any MSF member or officer. The text as provided by submitting organisations may be amended to ensure that it is brief, informative and readable but will as far as reasonably practicable remain as per the intent of the original submission. For the avoidance of doubt, no liability whatsoever shall be attached to any guidance, recommendation or statement contained therein. Contents should be reviewed individually by recipients who will determine relevance to their own operations.