

Safety Alert



Ref No: SA-002-2024

04 March 2024

Safe work at height – ship's crew

What happened:

Ship's crew were observed using a vessel gangway suspended from the vessel crane as a work platform.

The vessel was alongside, and the crew were performing maintenance from the suspended gangway.

The member port stopped the crew as soon as the activity was identified and all over the side work was stopped whilst in port. The incident was reported to the MCA and MAIB by the member's marine team.

Considerations for members:

- Review requirements for vessels to notify port of planned maintenance work when in port.
- Encourage operations teams to be vigilant of ship's crew activities and to report any unsafe activities.
- Ensure that, where work at height cannot be avoided, it is assessed, planned, and supervised by competent personnel.
- Check that all equipment used for work at height is fit for purpose and inspected by a competent person.
- Promote stop the job authority throughout the organisation, to encourage the reporting of unsafe acts or conditions.

PSS would like to thank Forth Ports for sharing the details of this incident and the related learnings at the base of this alert.