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## SAFETY ALERT No. 19-03

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### Hand Injury While Attempting to Secure Crane's Auxiliary Block

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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. A new Safety Alert has been issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority concerning a hand injury while attempting to secure crane's auxiliary block.
- 1.2. The Bahamas Maritime Authority wishes to bring the information referenced in Paragraph 2 to the attention of interested parties<sup>1</sup>.

#### 2. Description of the incident

- 2.1. On a Bahamas registered pipe laying vessel, the auxiliary block (weight: 26 tonnes) of the main crane was being moved to a location on the deck, where it could be handled for rigging purposes.
- 2.2. The team decided to secure the auxiliary block to the ship's handrail. The auxiliary block was placed at a position above the deck, before being lowered and slewed to touch the handrail.
- 2.3. Once the auxiliary block appeared to be steady, a Rigger reached to the block to secure it to the hand railing with a polypropylene rope before a clear signal was given by Banksman<sup>2</sup>. The Rigger placed his hand between the handrail and auxiliary block to move the rope. At this moment, the auxiliary block moved towards the railing. The Rigger's hand was trapped between the handrail and the auxiliary block. The vessel subsequently rolled releasing the Rigger's hand.

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<sup>1</sup> This Safety Alert is provided by the Bahamas Maritime Authority with the aim of highlighting incidents, lessons learnt and to increase awareness, which may help avoid similar incidents occurring elsewhere. Any queries on the content of the information provided should be referred to the party providing the information

<sup>2</sup> A Banksman is responsible for directing the movement of the crane.

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**Figure 1: Location of the auxiliary block of the main crane secured to handrail**



**Figure 2: Close up of auxiliary block with the intended position of rope indicated with the red line**



**Figure 3: Location of the area where the Rigger's hand was trapped**

### **3. Causal Factors**

- 3.1. The planning for the work activity was inappropriate. The Rigger attempted to secure the auxiliary block before a clear signal was given by the Banksman as the auxiliary block was not sufficiently stabilised.
- 3.2. The hazards and risks associated with the work activity involving securing of the auxiliary block were not identified appropriately. The Rigger placed his hand between the auxiliary block and handrail, without realizing the risk involved.
- 3.3. The Banksman did not stop or call back the Rigger when he approached the auxiliary block prior to a clear signal.

### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1. It is recommended to conduct an effective risk assessment and implement appropriate control measures to mitigate the risks before commencing any high-risk work activity.
- 4.2. The work activity should be planned and discussed with all team members to ensure that all team members have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities.

### **5. Validity**

- 5.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

### **6. Revision History**

Rev.0 (22 August 2019) – First issue