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SAFETY CIRCULAR

05th Feb 2019

TO: Fleet

SUBJECT: Voyage Data Recorder – Data Saving Instructions

The IMO defines the Voyage Data Recorder as a complete system, including any items required to interface with the sources of input signals, their processing and encoding, the final recording medium, the playback equipment, the power supply and dedicated reserve power source.

Akin to the 'Black Box' on airplanes, a Voyage Data Recorder is an equipment fitted on-board ships that record the various data on a ship which can be used for reconstruction of the voyage details and vital information during an accident investigation.

However any equipment on board is only as good as the person operating it. It is important to understand that data not saved is lost / overwritten and same cannot be used for accident investigation purposes.

During a recent incident on board our fleet vessel, It was evident that the ship's staff were not entirely familiar with the VDR equipment fitted on Bridge and their duties in relation to the equipment during any emergency.

To aid in the purpose of accident investigation it is paramount that all Bridge officers:

- Understand the importance of saving the data in a timely manner during a major incident
- Are aware of the correct procedures for saving of data.
- Are aware of the procedure for transfer of data to an external device post the incident.

In order to achieve the above objective Masters are instructed to carry out the following:

- Carry out a training session on board to ensure Bridge Team understands the purpose of VDR & are familiar with the operating instructions of the equipment.
- Post clear instructions next to the VDR panel on the procedure for saving & transferring of data.
- During Emergency Drills the Duty Officer simulates the saving of data & same is evident from the Drill reports.
- Ascertain if the software required to transfer data on to an external device is installed on board.

Kindly discuss this safety circular with all during the next safety meeting and revert with the following no later than 30th March 2018.

- Make & Model of the VDR on board.
- Instructions for saving & transferring of data.
- Location of external device where the VDR software is loaded for transferring & downloading of data.
- Evidence of training.
- Drill reports evidencing simulation of saving of data being carried out.

QHSE
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