

## **GENERAL CIRCULAR**

**09/2023**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2023**

### **SUBJECT: Importance of Raising Near Miss Reports.**

Raising near-miss reports is of paramount importance in any organization, especially in high-risk environments like the maritime industry. Here are some key reasons why the reporting of near-miss incidents is crucial:

1. **Early Warning System**: Near-miss incidents serve as an early warning system, alerting organizations to potential hazards and vulnerabilities before accidents or injuries occur. Identifying and addressing near-misses can prevent more severe incidents in the future.
2. **Risk Reduction**: Analyzing near-miss reports allows organizations to proactively identify and mitigate risks. By addressing the root causes of near-misses, safety measures can be improved to reduce the likelihood of similar incidents in the future.



3. **Continuous Improvement**: Near-miss reporting fosters a culture of continuous improvement. It encourages employees to actively participate in safety initiatives and share their insights on how to make operations safer and more efficient.
4. **Learning Opportunity**: Each near-miss incident provides a valuable learning opportunity. Organizations can analyze these incidents to understand what went wrong and why, allowing them to implement preventive measures and train employees to avoid similar situations.
5. **Cost Savings**: Preventing accidents and injuries is not only a matter of safety but also a financial concern. Near-miss reports can help organizations avoid the high costs associated with accidents, including medical expenses, property damage, legal fees, and insurance premiums.
6. **Legal and Regulatory Compliance**: Many industries, including the maritime sector, are subject to strict safety regulations and standards. Reporting near-misses

demonstrates an organization's commitment to compliance and safety, which can help avoid legal liabilities and penalties.

7. **Employee Engagement:** Encouraging employees to report near-misses fosters a sense of engagement and ownership in safety matters. When employees feel their input is valued, they are more likely to actively participate in safety initiatives.
8. **Data for Analysis:** Accumulating near-miss data over time provides a wealth of information that can be used for in-depth safety analysis. Patterns and trends can emerge from the data, allowing organizations to make informed decisions regarding safety protocols and investments.
9. **Enhanced Reputation:** A commitment to safety, including the reporting of near-miss incidents, enhances an organization's reputation both within the industry and among stakeholders. It demonstrates responsible and ethical business practices.
10. **Preventing Catastrophic Events:** Some near-miss incidents have the potential to escalate into catastrophic events if not addressed promptly. Reporting and addressing these incidents can prevent major disasters and save lives.

In summary, raising near-miss reports is an integral part of proactive safety management. It not only prevents accidents and injuries but also contributes to the overall well-being of employees, the financial stability of the organization, and the organization's reputation for safety and responsibility. Therefore, it should be encouraged and valued in all workplace environments, including the maritime industry.

