



Maritec Tanker Management Pvt Ltd
Lotus Corporate Park, G wing – 501, 5th Floor,
Graham Firth Compound,
Goregaon (E) Mumbai – 400063.
Email: qhse@maritectankers.com

SAFETY CIRCULAR

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TO: Fleet

Subject: Introduction to fall protection

Dear Masters,

We have to refer to one of our near miss reports received where the use of a safety harness was neglected.

Again we have to point out the risks involved.

The effects, rain, and snow, combined with the ship motions due to waves and currents increase the slip, trip, and fall hazards onboard ships and barges. Falling into open cargo holds or overboard can have deadly consequences including hypothermia, suffocation, or drowning.

Whether your application is new fabrication, repair, or day-to-day operation of a ship or barge, keeping our crew and employees safe requires a comprehensive fall prevention strategy, which includes the proper mix of fall protection equipment, personnel training, and partnering with a fall protection company that appreciates the unique nature of the potential fall hazards associated with ship and barge industry.



SAFETY FIRST?? -- clearly something is missing

Requirements and Solutions

When guards , handrails, or other protective fall protective arrangements are not available to protect from falls, workers must use personal fall protection systems, such as harnesses, lifelines,...

Training

The first training starts by reading the manual which is type related.
The attachment of the body harness must be located in the center of the wearers back, near the shoulder level or above the head.



Harness fitting

Check the application limits of the equipment (such as maximum permitted free fall, distance needed below to stop in order not to touch other objects below in your fall)

Proper use and storage

Proper use, inspection and storage of the equipment
Personal fall protection systems must not be used for other purposes such as hoisting equipment.

Inspection

Personal fall protection systems must be inspected before each use , defective equipment must be removed immediately.

Personal fall protection systems subjected to impact load must be removed from service.

Anchorage

The anchor hook must be anchored to anchorage of sufficient strength.

The anchor point must be different as of the scaffold support system, or ladder.

Rescue

In the event of a fall prompt rescue of the workers must be provided.



Rescue

Conclusion

Working aloft or in absence of protective fall arrangements means always :



Wear safety harness at all times + be properly secured

QHSE
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