

## Personnel safety on board vessels

Following a recent fatal accident, the Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) will encourage all vessel owners to review their vessel-specific risk assessments, procedures and checklists for arrival and departure, with a special focus on safe boarding and disembarking.

Good risk assessments, procedures and compliance with these shall ensure that the employees' safety is well taken care of during all work tasks on board. It is important that everyone involved is coordinated and has a common risk understanding for the tasks to be performed. The risk assessments and procedures must be updated if the work method, work equipment or other matters of importance to safety and health have changed since the last risk assessment was performed.

### Background

A smaller service vessel was heading towards a fish cage, and two of the crew members were ready on deck to moor the vessel as it approached the cage ring. The vessel has a gate in the ship's side and a hinged hatch in the deck, where a staircase under the hatch leads down to the waterline. At this time the hatch and the gate had been opened, ready for disembarkation. When the vessel thrusted sideways approx. 1-1.5 meters from the ring, one of the crew members slipped for unknown reasons and fell down the stairs, through the open gate and into the sea. The person was then crushed between the ship's side and the cage ring and died.

The NMA believes that the hatch, stairs and gate solution improves the safety during boarding and disembarking while the vessel is at the cage-/quayside, but there must be clear guidelines for how these are to be operated at sea.

Knut Arild Hareide  
Director General of Shipping and Navigation

Lars Alvestad  
Head of Department

*This document has been electronically approved and signed.*

**NIS//NOR**

Postal address: Postboks 2222  
N-5509 HAUGESUND

Telephone: 52 74 50 00  
Telefax: 52 74 50 01

Organization no: NO 974 761 262 MVA

Office address.: Smedasundet 50 A  
N-5528 HAUGESUND

E-mail: [post@sdir.no](mailto:post@sdir.no)  
Internet: [www.sjofartsdir.no](http://www.sjofartsdir.no)

IM-037

ROH

Rev 01

Dato: 4.6.2015

