



Information sourced from IMCA Safety Flash

Defective embarkation ladder quarantined – a reminder

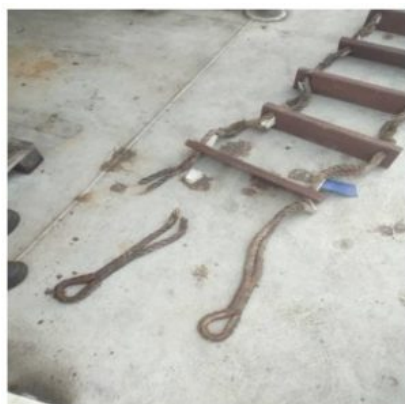
What happened

During routine inspection of the port side embarkation ladder on a vessel operating in a tropical environment, it was observed that the embarkation ladder rope has become very weak and snapped, when pulled apart by hands. This could likely have led to a man overboard situation had the ladder been used.

What were the causes?

Our member noted the following preliminary causes:

- The protective canvas cover was inadequate, not providing adequate protection for the ladder;
- The crew had a poor culture of routine inspection;
- Exposure to seawater and sunlight (actinic degradation).



Actions

- Pilot ladders and other ladders should be appropriately and carefully stored, checked regularly as part of a planned maintenance system, and defective ladders removed from service immediately.