

# Get it fixed!! Deteriorated seals on emergency hatch

## What Happened?

During an inspection of a vessel as a part of the 5-yearly docking, deteriorated seals were found on a number of hatches.

Preliminary investigation was conducted and after crew feedback, it was revealed that the crew had observed this unsafe condition some while ago, ordered and received new seals, but had continued to operate with no action, waiting for docking in order to replace deteriorated seals etc.

Hatch seals perform a vital role in a wide variety of marine applications. The hatch seal ensures that no liquid or gas is able to enter the vessel. After a period of use seals can deteriorate and become worn which reduces potential sealing properties. In this case, there was the risk of potential seawater leakage to the engine room had no action been taken.



## What went wrong? What was the cause?

- Lack of risk perception and lack of timely action by vessel crew after identifying deteriorated seals – continuing to operate in an unsafe condition, considering waiting until the vessel was docked.

## Actions

- “If it isn’t broken, don’t fix it” is a call to inaction – if something needs dealing with, deal with it now, not later.