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Our Ref: Incident in Immingham, UK involving failure of outboard side combination railing

Date: 14 February 2022

IMPA Notice No 959

Dear Colleagues,

The “Grand Radiant”, IMO No 9906465, registered in Panama under NKK Class suffered an incident where the accommodation ladder entire outboard side railing fell away due to a pin becoming loose. The PSC surveyors report (abridged) follows:

“The ladder to which the incident relates is one of four 54 step ladders covered by NKK certificates of construction numbered FE20SC01761-01 and FE20SC01761-02 issued to the manufacturing company Jiangsu Ouya Marien Outfitting Co Ltd of Taizhou City, China. The four ladders fitted to this vessel are serial numbers OY20390/91/92/93.

At the top of the ladder the collapsible handrail on each side is connected to an upright stanchion on the top platform by a short length of curved handrail, which is located by means of a drop nose pin at each end. See photo below.



All axial loading applied the handrail is transferred through the pins to the stanchion.

Upon examination it is apparent that the design of the pin, arranged with the drop nose ending, is not effective at preventing the pin coming out when the handrail is vibrated transversely relative to the orientation of the ladder itself.

This was replicated on different pins on different ladders onboard the vessel so appears to be a design fault.

There is every possibility that if the ladder strikes the hull during adverse weather the resulting vibration in the handrail may be sufficient for the correctly installed pin to work it's way out and for the handrail to collapse.

The vessel has been instructed to seek a permanent solution from the manufacturer of the ladder - to be implemented within three months. This is in the hope that it would form part of a general product recall or similar whereby all ladders could be modified at the same time to remove the risk from all vessels.

Until this time the master of GRAND RADIANT has also been instructed to apply a suitable temporary solution to prevent the problem recurring on board"

Members are advised to exercise extreme caution when offered arrangements based on this design.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Cutmore', written in a cursive style.

Nick Cutmore
Secretary General