

Hatch Cover Safety – Port of Geraldton

Number: 09 / 2024

Date Issued: 13th December 2024

Date of effect:	13 th December 2024
Details:	Hatch cover in partially opened position
Former Notice:	Nil
Distribution:	All vessels in port
Attachments:	Nil

"Mid-West Ports Authority" has become aware of several recent incidents involving unsecured hatches in the tent (pyramid) position, while the vessels are in port for loading and unloading. In some cases, people have been observed leaning over hatch coamings while the hatches are in partially opened position.

This poses a significant safety risk as unsecured hatches can lead to severe injuries or loss of life to personal.

It is crucial to ensure that all hatches are properly secured as per the maker's approved method, and that personnel are aware of the dangers of leaning over partially open hatches.

Investigations shows that these incidents were caused by a lack of supervision, situational awareness of safety requirements and inadequate procedures and training.

To ensure safety of all personal on board. All vessels calling the Port of Geraldton must comply with the following requirements.

1. Ensure all foldable hatches are fully secured as per the maker's approved method (either fully opened or closed) before allowing personnel to work near them.
2. Implement a strict protocol for opening and closing hatches, including regular inspections to locking device.
3. Provide training to all personnel on the risks associated with unsecured hatches and the importance of following safety protocols.
4. Use safety barriers or warning signs to prevent personnel from leaning over partially open hatches.

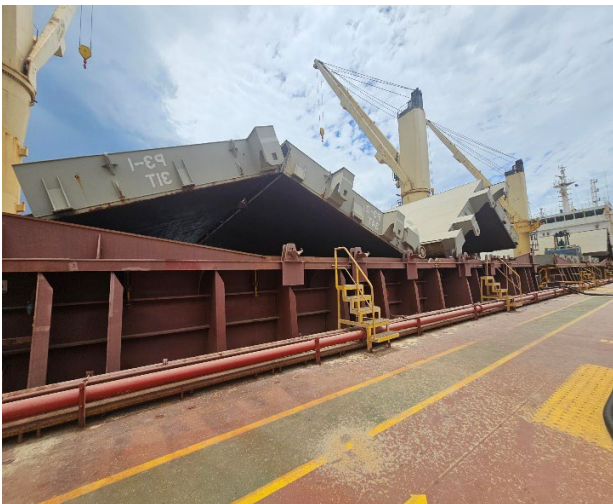
For additional guidance for rigging and maintenance following documents should be referred to.

- Hatch Cover Maker's Manual.
- Vessel's Safety Management System.

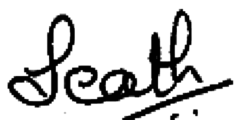
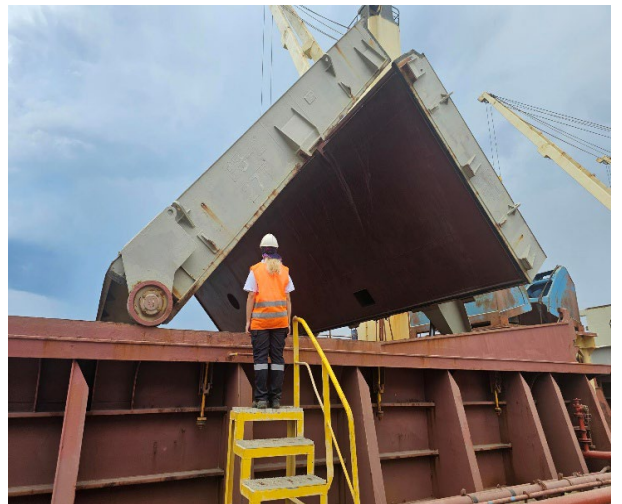
Failure to comply with these instructions will result in appropriate actions taken by the Port Authority on the vessel.



Example of ship's crew leaning over the hatch coaming (Aft of the cargo hold)



Example of the ship's crew standing vicinity of partially opened hatch cover



Heathcliff Pimento

Harbour Master (Port of Geraldton)