

SAFETY NOTICES

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Loss of anchor at sea

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One of our vessels recently lost her starboard anchor when under way. On investigation, it was determined that the spile pin securing the main pin of the 'D' shackle had come free, allowing the main pin to dislodge and causing the anchor to drop into the sea. The loss was detected at a later stage by ship's staff, during their rounds of the forecastle deck.

Shackle Pins

Occasions have arisen when anchors have been lost because the spile pin securing the main pin of the 'D' shackle has come free allowing the main to move.

At regular intervals the 'D' and swivel shackles should be inspected to verify that the spile pins are still in position, thereby ensuring the security of the main pin. If a spile pin is missing it must be replaced, certainly before the anchor is used again.

As a preventative measure the main shackle pin is sometimes spot welded to the 'D'.

Welding in this fashion permits the 'D' to flex over the main pin without danger of the main pin coming out.

Corrective/preventative actions

1. Fleet instructed to inspect anchor connections at the first opportunity and report the findings to the management office.
2. In accordance with recommendations in OCIMF Publication 'Anchoring Systems and Procedures For Large Tankers', Chapter 11.3, fleet instructed to spot weld the shackle pin during the next planned, gas free mode, following the company-approved hot work procedures at all times.