



**ON'S BELL
NEWS ON
THE WAY!**

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CREW CREW CREW

As April closes, we want to extend our deep gratitude to every seafarer contributing to our safe and efficient operations. Your commitment continues to power NOVELLA forward.





URGENT REMINDER: NEW FUEL REGULATIONS IN EFFECT STARTING MAY 1

This is a critical operational reminder for tomorrow, May 1:

The new fuel regulations for the Mediterranean Sea come into force on May 1.

From this date forward, **only compliant low-sulfur fuels are accepted** within the designated Mediterranean Emission Control Area (ECA).

There will be zero tolerance for non-compliance — violations may lead to fines, detentions, and severe reputational damage.

WHAT YOU MUST DO:

- ◆ **Switch to compliant fuel** *before* entering the Mediterranean ECA zone.
- ◆ **Ensure fuel changeover procedures are logged accurately and clearly.**
- ◆ **Double-check all fuel inventories and documentation** are up to date and available for inspection.

This regulation marks a major shift. **Everyone must be fully aligned** to avoid any disruptions.

If you have any questions or need support with compliance procedures, **reach out to the operations lead immediately.**

Let's make sure we are **100% ready.**





Springtime & Allergies On Board: What You Need to Know

As the spring season settles in across many regions, especially around the Mediterranean and Northern Europe, **pollen levels rise**—bringing along with them **seasonal allergies** that can affect crew members, even at sea.

UNDERSTANDING ALLERGIES AT SEA

While we might be hundreds of miles from land, **airborne allergens like pollen can still travel significant distances**—especially in coastal regions or when vessels are docked. Dust, mold spores, and other irritants may also circulate in enclosed areas of the ship.

COMMON SYMPTOMS:

- Sneezing, nasal congestion
- Itchy, watery eyes
- Fatigue or mild headaches
- Coughing or throat irritation

TIPS FOR MANAGING ALLERGIES ON BOARD

BE PREPARED:

- **If you have known allergies**, bring enough **prescribed antihistamines or decongestants** for the entire voyage.
- Consult the ship's medical officer before departure if you need advice on medications.

REDUCE EXPOSURE:

- **Keep living spaces clean and well-ventilated**, especially air filters in cabins and common areas.
- **Avoid drying laundry outdoors** during high-pollen days when in port.

BE AWARE OF TRIGGERS:

- Take extra care when performing tasks that stir up dust (e.g., cleaning stores, opening long-closed spaces).
- Use **dust masks** when necessary—especially in storerooms or ventilation maintenance.

FINAL NOTE:

Allergies may be minor, but **they can reduce comfort and operational performance** on board. Recognizing symptoms early and having a management plan ensures a safer and healthier crew environment during this season.

Stay safe, breathe easy—and enjoy the spring breeze!

NOVELLA Crew Wellness Desk

Committed to your health on every voyage.



LEARNING FROM A NEAR MISS



Near Miss Report: Galley Safety Oversight

During a routine safety inspection in the galley, the Captain observed the cook operating a meat slicer without wearing the mandatory metal safety glove. This presented a significant risk of serious hand injury.

Lessons Learned:

Even routine tasks require full compliance with safety measures.

Metal gloves are essential when oper-

ating slicing or cutting machinery to prevent lacerations or more severe injuries.

Supervisory roles must actively reinforce safety standards and set the right example at all times.

Let this serve as a positive reminder of the importance of vigilance and responsibility in every area of shipboard operations. Near misses are opportunities to strengthen our safety culture—before accidents happen.

NOVELLA Safety Watch

LEARNING FROM A NEAR MISS

During mooring operations for bunkering, a crew member at the stern slipped on a wet deck surface. Thanks to a quick reaction, he managed to grab onto nearby equipment and avoid a serious fall near the winch—preventing potential injury.

Lesson Learned: Always remain vigilant during operations on wet or slippery surfaces. Wear appropriate footwear, maintain three points of contact when moving, and never underestimate the importance of situational awareness during routine tasks.

This event serves as a timely reminder of

the risks posed by wet or slippery surfaces on board—especially during high-focus tasks like mooring. Even experienced crew can be caught off guard when weather, water, or operational conditions reduce deck traction



Slips, Trips and Falls



LEARNING FROM A NEAR MISS



During maneuvering operations to shift the vessel from Darsena Oli Minerali to Ponte Rubattino, the Captain observed an unexpected and uncommanded change in engine control. Specifically, the control of the port engine's RPM (revolutions per minute) automatically switched from the main throttle lever ("manetta") to the control panel buttons on the Schottel panel.

This switch occurred without any audible alarm or visual warning, which posed a significant risk to safe vessel maneuverability. The Captain promptly identified the issue and took corrective action, preventing any operational impact or incident.

Report incident to technical management and Schottel support for diagnostic analysis

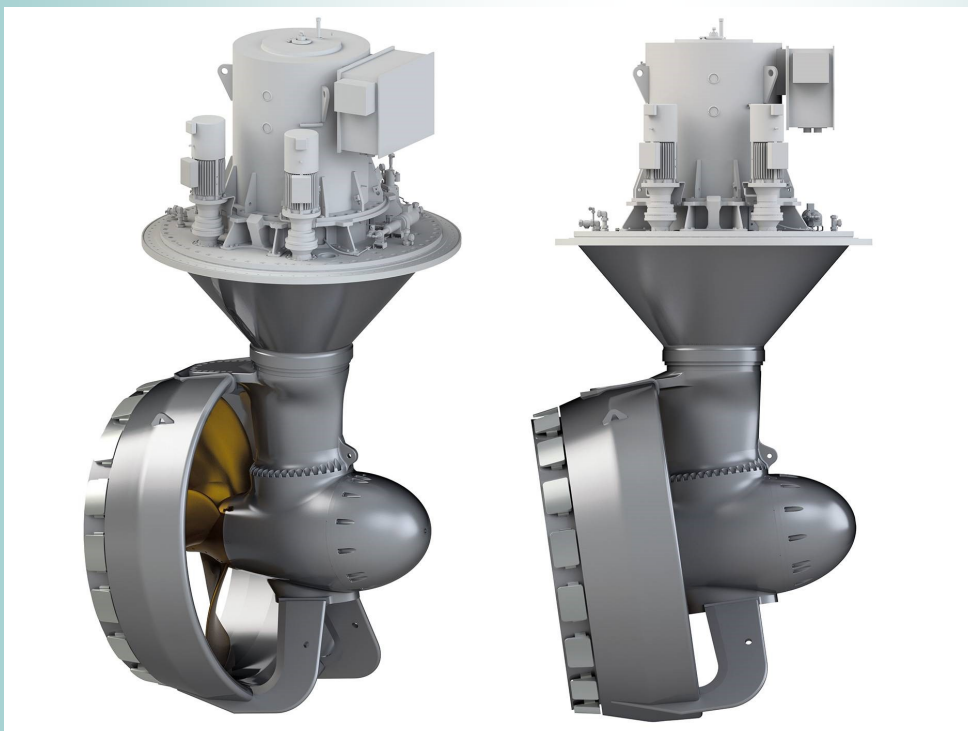
Review and test alarm/warning systems associated with control transfer functions

Include this scenario in bridge resource management drills

Update operational procedures to include periodic checks of control status during maneuvers

Lesson Learned

Unexpected system behavior, especially during vessel maneuvering, can compromise navigational safety. It is essential to ensure control systems provide clear and immediate alerts when changing modes. Early detection and situational awareness by the bridge team remain critical in preventing escalation.



LEARNING FROM A NEAR MISS



Upon completion of scheduled work on the main deck, the Officer of the Watch (OOW) on the bridge observed that the ventilation flaps at the forward station had been left open. These flaps were not secured following the conclusion of deck operations.

Had this gone unnoticed in the event of bad weather or heavy seas, seawater could have entered the forward compartment. This would have posed serious risks, including potential flooding, damage to electrical panels, and adverse effects on the ship's stability due to water ingress in a low and forward space.

Reinforce post-job inspection routines, including flap/hatch checks

Incorporate ventilation flap status into standard work completion checklist

Conduct crew training on the importance of securing openings

Improve bridge-deck communication regarding critical safety items during and after operations

Lesson learned

Openings such as ventilation flaps, though routine in use, can pose serious hazards if left unattended—especially in weather-sensitive areas of the vessel. Implementing strict post-task checks and clear communication protocols is essential for maintaining vessel integrity and operational safety.





LEARNING FROM A NEAR MISS



During loading preparations, the pumpman identified that the cargo hose was not properly tightened to the ship's manifold. The issue was discovered before the commencement of cargo operations, as a result of the double-check process required by the vessel's pre-loading checklist.

A pressure test was subsequently carried out, confirming the integrity of the connection, and the cargo loading operation commenced without further issue.

Inadequate attention during initial hose connection.

Failure to properly follow connection verification procedures at the first step.

Lesson Learned.

Even small oversights in cargo preparation can lead to significant safety and environmental consequences. This near miss highlights the critical importance of strict procedural compliance and double-checking systems—particularly when handling cargo transfer equipment. Thanks to adherence to the pre-loading checklist, a potentially hazardous situation was prevented.





LEARNING FROM A NEAR MISS



Damaged Anti-Splashing Tape and Insulation on Fuel Piping

During a routine inspection of the engine room, the anti-splashing tape and thermal insulation applied to sections of the fuel piping were found to be in poor condition.

The materials appeared aged, partially detached, or degraded, compromising their ability to serve as protective barriers in the event of a leak or spray.

No leakage or immediate hazard was identified at the time, and the condition was reported and addressed before any incident could occur.

Immediate Causes:

Wear and tear due to prolonged exposure to heat, vibration, or operational conditions

Lack of regular maintenance or scheduled replacement of critical safety materials

Potential Consequences (If Unaddressed):

Increased fire risk due to potential fuel spray onto hot surfaces

Compromised crew safety

Non-compliance with SOLAS requirements for engine room fire protection

Possible detention during inspections or audits

Corrective/Preventive Measures:

Immediate replacement of damaged anti-splashing tape and insulation

Implement routine checks of all fuel line protections during engine room rounds

Update maintenance schedules to include periodic replacement of safety covers and tapes

Raise crew awareness on the importance of monitoring engine room fire protection systems

Lesson Learned:

Protective materials like anti-splashing tape and pipe insulation may seem passive, but they play a critical role in preventing engine room fires. Their condition must be monitored consistently and replaced proactively to ensure continued protection in line with maritime safety standards.



LEARNING FROM AN UNSAFE ACT



Damaged Fire Blanket Packing Detected During FFE Inspection

During a routine FFE (Fire Fighting Equipment) check in accordance with the 7-S Form schedule and safety inspection routines, it was observed that the fire blanket stored in the forecandle had damaged packing. The seal integrity of the container appeared to be compromised, raising doubts about the effectiveness and usability of the fire blanket in the event of an emergency.

No emergency occurred at the time, and the defect was promptly reported for corrective action.

Immediate Causes:

Possible physical damage during storage or handling

Environmental exposure (humidity, vibration, or temperature changes) weakening the packaging over time

Lack of recent visual inspection or reporting

Potential Consequences (If Undetected):

Unavailability of functional fire blanket during an actual fire incident

Delayed response in smothering small fires involving clothing or galley equipment

Corrective/Preventive Measures:

Replace the damaged fire blanket and verify the condition of other similar equipment on board

Review FFE storage conditions to minimize environmental degradation

Reinforce inspection routines to ensure all seals and packages are intact and clearly marked

Train crew to promptly report any signs of tampering or wear on emergency equipment

Lesson Learned:

This incident underscores the importance of regular and detailed FFE inspections. Even passive safety equipment, such as a fire blanket, must be maintained in perfect condition to ensure readiness in emergencies. Small oversights can undermine fire preparedness and compliance—attention to detail matters.



LEARNING FROM AN UNSAFE ACT



During a routine deck patrol, it was observed that the draining plug of a bunker save-all had been left open following a cleaning operation. Fortunately, this was identified before any bunkering activity or rain exposure occurred, and no spillage or contamination resulted.

The save-all system is designed to contain any minor leaks or drips during bunkering operations. An open plug compromises this containment, posing both environmental and safety risks.

Immediate Causes:

Failure to re-secure the draining plug after cleaning

Lack of procedural checks post-maintenance

Possible communication lapse between cleaning crew and duty officer

Potential Consequences (If Undetected):

Loss of containment in case of fuel leakage during bunkering

Risk of oil discharge overboard

Non-compliance with MARPOL regulations

Potential fines, reputational damage, and environmental harm

Corrective/Preventive Measures:

Immediate closure and proper securing of the draining plug

Incorporate draining plug checks into the post-cleaning checklist

Brief cleaning crew and deck watchkeepers on the critical role of bunker save-all integrity

Assign responsibility for final verification after any tank or system cleaning activity

Lesson Learned:

Even minor oversights like an open plug can have serious consequences if left unaddressed. This event highlights the need for thorough post-task inspections, effective communication, and personal accountability to ensure pollution prevention measures remain fully functional at all times.



LEARNING FROM AN UNSAFE ACT



During a routine round on deck, a paint drum was found not properly closed and secured. The drum's lid was partially open, creating a risk of spillage due to vessel movement, weather conditions, or accidental impact. Fortunately, no spillage occurred, and the issue was addressed before it could lead to contamination or injury.

Paints and solvents are classified as hazardous materials and must be handled with strict care to prevent environmental release, fire risk, or exposure to personnel.

Immediate Causes:

- Incomplete securing of drum lid after use
- Lack of attention during material handling
- Absence of post-use inspection or verification

Potential Consequences (If Undetected):

- Spillage of hazardous material on deck
- Environmental contamination
- Fire hazard due to flammable vapors
- Exposure risk for crew and possible slip/trip incidents

Corrective/Preventive Measures:

- Secure the drum immediately and inspect surrounding area for residue
- Remind crew to close and secure all hazardous material containers after use
- Include container closure checks in routine rounds and housekeeping inspections
- Conduct toolbox talks on safe handling and storage of paints and chemicals

Lesson Learned:

Proper storage and closure of hazardous materials like paints are essential to onboard safety and environmental protection. Even a small oversight can escalate if not caught early. Continuous vigilance and responsible material handling are vital parts of daily operations.



Welcome aboard!

We are pleased to have you as part of our team and look forward to working together in a safe, respectful, and professional environment.

As you begin your assignment, please remember that safety is our highest priority—both for you and your fellow crewmates. Every task, no matter how routine, must be carried out with attention, care, and the proper procedures.

☑ A Few Key Reminders:

Familiarize yourself with the vessel's layout, muster stations, and emergency equipment.

Always wear the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate for your task.

Don't hesitate to ask questions or raise concerns—your input helps us all stay safer. Report any unsafe condition or behavior immediately to your supervisor or officer of the watch.

Respect shipboard hierarchy, follow procedures, and support your fellow crew members.

We are all here to maintain a professional standard, work as a team, and ensure a smooth and successful voyage for everyone onboard.

Once again, welcome aboard—and fair winds ahead!

- ◆ 2° Officer LUBRANO LAVADERA Claudio
- ◆ 2° Officer GUTU Daniel
- ◆ Pmp BUJOREANU Gheorghe
- ◆ A/B CABISADA John Michael

