



SAFETY BULLETIN

Incident
#01-2025

Securing of vessel doors whilst underway

ISSUE DATE: 04 April 2025

Subject: *Importance of securing doors and openings whilst underway.*

Recent Incident: *An incident occurred where a component failed on a door winch system and the safety locks were not in place.*

Issue: *Eye bolt coming free from door fitting, causing the bow door to fall open, the likelihood of this occurrence is possible and consequences may be extreme when underway at speed.*

Reference materials:

Vessel Safety Management System. Operations manuals, Operational Risk Assessments, Vessel information books.

Important message: Do not rely on a single point for securing, use all redundancies available for safe operations.

Actions:

All doors and openings, especially doors which open over water shall be secured correctly when underway to both reduce the risk of water ingress and reduce the risk of component failure. Access doors into cabins must be securely retained and all doors which open over water must be dogged shut with all inbuilt clamps, locks or cams to avoid accidental opening. No person shall stand on a bow door whilst the vessel is underway at any speed.

An overwater door may only be open in the following situations:

Speeds <4 knots.

Necessary to perform a rescue.

Accessing the shore and the door is resting on or close to the ground..

The vessel is stationary.

As risk assessed and deemed safe.

Actions to be followed to avoid similar incident:

- 1. Check all opening fixtures and fittings to ensure the function properly*
- 2. Check securing points are not deteriorated or loose.*
- 3. Secure all retaining points, cam locks or security straps correctly.*
- 4. Monitor fixtures to ensure they do not vibrate loose.*
- 5. Conduct regular inspections of retaining equipment.*
- 6. Do not presume prior knowledge.*
- 7. Clean and maintain equipment.*

Additional or related safety considerations

Avoid standing on overwater door openings unless in controlled circumstances and risk assessed.

Always be cautious of pinch points and winch handles.

Do not place excessive load on the door (>250kg).



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1. **For further information:** Contact: MRNSW Fleet team Kelvin Parkin or Andrew Harding

Pictorial information



Retaining eye bolt has been pulled out of the thread from the door. This bolt is attached to the Spectra line on the winch.

Fatigue of use and over tensioning of the winch may have been factors in the failure of this fitting.



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Example of the cam style lock
in fully secured position with
security clip in place.



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Door latch in open position



Door latch released and
not secure.



Cam release lock.



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Adjustable head for cam lock
reach to retaining claws.

