

RECOMMENDATION AND LESSONS

Based on the investigation of this incident on board the NCC SAFA, the principle 'follow the procedures' is once again underlined. In addition, the Dutch Safety Board comes to the following recommendation to the shipping company:

To Mideast Ship Management

1. Provide an inert gas system constructed so that there are multiple safety barriers. This should include a control system for the use of inert gas, whose capabilities and limitations are known to the entire crew.

In addition to the recommendation the following lessons can be learned from the incident:

1. During inspection and maintenance, the crew must be mindful of possible failure of the inert gas system due to damage. Ensure that all safety-critical components are identified and adjust the maintenance protocol accordingly. A maintenance protocol limited to only lubrication and visual inspection of part of a valve gives an unwarranted sense of being safe.
2. Crew should be able to speak up and stop work if another crew member (including the captain) does not follow a procedure. Provide a working environment where crew feel safe to do so.
3. Targeted training and education ensure that procedures can be followed and impulsive actions, where people put themselves in mortal danger, are prevented.