

Interim safety recommendation after capsizing of the tug Fairplay 22 for sister ships

In reference to the initial findings and results of a stability test and in anticipation of the final report the Dutch Safety Board has issued an interim safety recommendation on the stability of the sister ships of the Fairplay 22 that capsized on the 11th November 2010 at the Nieuwe Waterweg near Hoek van Holland. In this accident two crew men were killed and one was injured. The recommendation applies to the sister ship Fairplay 23 and other nearly identical ships and is directed to the shipping company. A copy of the recommendation was sent to the Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping in Antigua and Barbuda where the Fairplay 22 was registered, the Marine Accident Investigation Branch of England and the Inspectorate of Transport, Public Works and Water management.

The Board recommends the shipping company to assess the stability of the sister ships of the Fairplay 23. In case the results of the stability assessment are similar to those of the Fairplay 23, it is recommended that corrective action is taken to improve the stability such that compliance with at least the requirements of SBG is achieved.

The Dutch Safety Board tested the stability of the sister ship of the Fairplay 22, the Fairplay 23, that was made available for this investigation by the shipping company. The stability did not always comply with the current prevailing general recommendations for stability of tugs as laid down by the International Association of Classification Societies, Ltd (IACS) and the then prevailing stability requirements, as drawn up by the classification society