

# Introduction

I have just returned from the annual meeting of the Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum (MAIIF). Attended this year by the senior investigators of 25 countries, it rapidly became apparent that we all had the same overriding safety concerns. Three of these - fatigue, complacency and poor Bridge teamwork - are amply illustrated in the Merchant Vessel section of this edition of the Safety Digest. Please read these cases and then consider, if accident investigators from around the world all see these same issues time and again in accidents, how confident are you that you/your ship/your company are getting them right?

The other key concern we all shared was the apparent growth in the number of accidents involving entry into enclosed/confined spaces. Although there are no examples in this Safety Digest, MAIB is currently dealing with three such cases, two of them fatal, and many other countries at MAIIF reported similar. Please look again at your systems and re-brief your crews on the importance of correct ventilation and entry procedures. This is a critical area, where complacency cannot be allowed to grow.

The Fishing Vessel and Leisure Craft sections again provide a cross section of accidents, many tragic. Better awareness of risk would stop most accidents - before a trip, or before a specific evolution, just think through with your crew: "What are the dangers?"; "What do we need to do to avoid each one happening?"; "What should we do to minimize the effect if it were to happen?"; and "how would we deal with it if it does happen?" Such a quick and simple discussion could save lives.

**Think safety and stay safe.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Meyer". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Stephen Meyer  
Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents  
December 2007