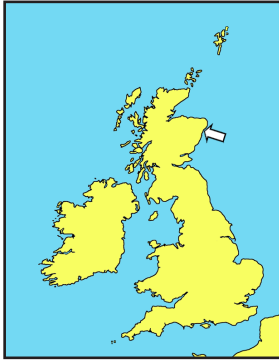


## SYNOPSIS



On 1 April 2009, a rigger was working on top of a diving bell in the forward bell hanger on the diving support vessel (DSV) *Wellservicer*, when the winch for the diving bell's cursor<sup>1</sup> suddenly rendered, allowing the cursor to fall on top of him. The rigger suffered severe crush injuries, from which he later died.

Work on the vessel's diving bell emergency recovery system began during an earlier dry docking period in Vlissingen, Holland. On completion of the dry dock, *Wellservicer* proceeded to Aberdeen Bay to undertake trials of her dynamic positioning system.

The work on the forward diving bell emergency recovery system included the installation of a new winch and alterations to the diving bell's docking cursor and trolley arrangement. It became necessary to remove buoyancy blocks from the top of the forward diving bell, and while this work progressed the docking cursor, which weighed approximately 4 tonnes, was suspended from the newly installed winch, as riggers worked on the bell below. Suddenly, and without warning, the winch rendered and the cursor dropped onto the bell, trapping one of the riggers.

The MAIB investigation concluded that project management of the cursor modifications lacked direction, focus and effective monitoring at various management levels.

As a result of its internal investigation, the vessel's owner has implemented a major revision of its systems and processes to reduce the potential for future accidents, and has promulgated the lessons learned from this accident to its offshore and onshore personnel, contractors and clients.

An external contracting company involved in the new winch installation has also implemented major changes to its safety procedures and processes for external client projects, in response to the accident.

As a consequence of the actions already taken by stakeholders, no recommendations have been made in this report. However, the MAIB has published a Safety Flyer for circulation to the offshore shipping industry, which details the lessons learned from this accident.

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<sup>1</sup> Cursor: An arrangement in the shape of an inverted bowl, which guides the diving bell into the ship from below, enabling the diving bell to become integral with the ship and her movements.