

KISH P & I LOSS PREVENTION CIRCULAR KPI-LP-58-2012 ***(An eye injury accident & Lessons to be Learnt)***

The recipients of this Loss Prevention Circular should read it in conjunction with our Human Element Issues circular with the following reference:

Human Element Issues KPI-HEI-12-2012[Problems with the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)]

There has been a report on one of our member vessels that an unfortunate accident has happened to a crew member, the main cause of which was identified to be: "improper use of the Personal Protective Equipment"

➤ **Brief description of the accident:**

A crew member was assigned to carry out a job with the power brush tool. While he had stopped the job temporarily, he had taken off his eye protection (visor /goggles) and a piece of flying material from another power brush which was being used by a fellow crew member in the vicinity hit his left eye causing severe injury.

➤ **Root Causes & Lessons to be Learnt:**

1- There are signs of lack of familiarization with the proper use of PPE (in this case the eye protection).

2- The crew members should be advised about an important issue that before taking off the protective equipment; the work itself & the ambient atmosphere must be made safe. Any power tool should be switched off & if possible taken off the power mains.

On another instance -for example- a mask should not be taken off prior proper ventilation & gas detection of the space.

Gloves should not be taken off as soon as a hot job is finished as the material working on may still be not cooled enough to be safe and so on...

3- The working tools and accessories / attachments should be checked frequently prior & during the job for their safe operation and detection of any possible defect/weakness.

In this case the wire pieces attached to a rotating brush-head might have become loose without having been noticed. There is also a chance of debris flown away during work.

The power tools may have damaged parts in the electric-cord or connection and can cause electrocution to the user or else.

4- The supervision of the crew members is of prime importance. The seafarers carrying out the day to day operations must be supervised during their operations and reminded frequently about the bits & pieces that they may forget or ignore.

5- Complacency & over-confidence may be a major factor in causing accidents. No matter if this is your first day on the job or you are doing it for the last twenty years; if you make a mistake and take off your PPE or ignore and ease off the protective measures; accidents will happen.

The masters & senior officers of recipient vessels are kindly requested to include this circular & related material in their on-board-meetings agenda & discuss the contents with all personnel as necessary.