



STEAMSHIP MUTUAL Risk Alert



Safety in Enclosed Spaces



This Risk Alert has been written by Captain John Taylor, of the Loss Prevention Team

The Club would like to draw Members attention to a recently issued MAIB Safety Bulletin regarding an [Enclosed Space Fatality on board a UK registered fishing vessel](#).

The Bulletin once again highlights the wide and varied nature of enclosed spaces that can be found on all types of vessels and the hazards that such spaces can present.

Some particular points to highlight are the need to undertake an appropriate and robust risk assessment and to ensure that safe systems of work are in place for all activities and that rescue plans are in place, fully understood and practiced on a regular basis.



Members are reminded of the previously issued Steamship Mutual Risk Alerts on this topic:
[RA 15](#) – Personal Injury in and around Cargo Holds – Oxygen Depletion, in the instance referenced due to the carriage of a cargo of steel, although there are many and varied cargoes that can result in a lack of oxygen and other potentially toxic and hazardous atmospheres.

[RA 16](#) – The Dangers of Confined Spaces – Identifying an enclosed space and the potential causes / sources of oxygen deficiency together with guidance on how to effect safe entry of a confined space. It is important that seafarers can identify those spaces that do not obviously appear to pose a risk!

[RA 19](#) – Dangerous Spaces – Highlighting the potential presence of a dangerous atmosphere, even in seemingly safe spaces.

[RA 47](#) – Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Enclosed Space Entry Drills – In addition to Reminding Members of the CIC that the Maritime Administrations of Paris and Tokyo were undertaking in 2015 this Risk Alert also provided the list of ten questions that PSCO's of the participating MOU's would be asking, the first 8 of these remain valid as questions to be addressed when considering all enclosed space entry activities.

It is very important that seafarers can identify even those spaces that do not immediately appear to pose a risk.

Should Members have any questions in regard to the MAIB Safety Bulletin, any of the referenced Risk Alerts or any other questions in regard to enclosed space entry then please contact the Club's [Loss Prevention Department](#).

Acknowledgements:

We acknowledge the Crown Copyright of the MAIB Safety Bulletin which we reproduce pursuant to this notice <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>