

Risk Alert



Risk Alert: Main Engine Start Failure



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NTSB have recently issued [Marine Investigation Report MIR 22/07](#) in regard to an incident in the port of Corpus Christi in March 2021. The incident resulted from a continued failure of a vessel's main engine to start, whilst maneuvering to facilitate the departure of a vessel ahead. As a consequence of this failure the vessel contacted a mooring dolphin causing significant damage to the terminal infrastructure and damage to the vessel.

The investigation report identified some important and pertinent points that the Club would like to bring to the attention of our Members.

The NTSB investigations concluded and noted that:

- the probable cause of the start failure was the “ineffective evaluation and incorrect solution for a main engine start issue”
- the presence of moisture and lack of routine draining of the air start system was contributory to this failure.
- starting and stopping of a slow speed main engine is a critical function for effective maneuverability.

The NTSB report also makes reference to [MAB 15/08](#), a previous casualty caused by a main engine failure on the vessel MV Anna Smile. The main engine start failure was found to be due to excessive moisture in the control air system which prevented the pneumatic changeover valves from functioning properly. In this incident a lack of proper communication between the engine room and bridge was identified as being a probable cause.



The full reports can be accessed below:

[MIR22/07](#)

[MAB 15/08](#)