

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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YACHT SAFETY ADVISORY No. 13-24

To: Yacht Owners, Masters, Managers, Agents, Recognized Class Societies and Appointed Representatives

Subject: FATALITIES DUE TO FALLS FROM HEIGHT

Date: 23 December 2024

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) reminds yacht owners, operators, officers, and crewmembers of the importance of wearing fall protection equipment when a risk of falling from height exists.

Since 2019, falls from height on RMI-flagged commercial vessels have been the leading very serious marine casualty (VSMC)¹ by incident type, accounting for 31% of VSMCs in this period and resulting in the loss of 22 lives. In the last two years alone, 11 seafarers have died falling from height.

Recommendations

- The Administrator strongly recommends that the owner or the owner’s representative review and amend, as necessary, onboard safe working practices to ensure they comply with the requirements outlined in the RMI Yacht Code ([MI-103](#)) The review should take into account task and location specific safety assessments addressing the risk of falling.
- Masters should hold a special safety meeting to review and discuss the information provided in this Yacht Safety Advisory and attached Safety Flyer on Falls to ensure that risks of falling from height are adequately understood.
- It is also recommended to display the accompanying Safety Flyer on Falls on board in areas where yacht crew are likely to interact with it daily.

¹ A VSMC means a marine casualty involving the total loss of the ship or a death or severe damage to the environment.

This YSA is evaluated annually by the Administrator and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.



Maritime Administrator

Attention Yacht Crew

the Republic of the Marshall Islands
Maritime Administrator reminds you to put

SAFETY FIRST

PREVENT FATAL FALLS

FALLS are the #1 RISK TO LIFE on board

Ask yourself:

“Where is my harness, lifeline,
or fall arrest equipment?”



ALWAYS USE FALL PROTECTION



If in doubt:

STOP, ASK, and REPORT.