

MARITIME ACCIDENTS

*Seafarers
- be aware!*

If your vessel is involved in a maritime accident, then be aware that there are international guidelines in place to ensure that you are treated fairly if an investigation is carried out and/or if you are detained by a State following the accident.

These guidelines are the IMO/ILO Guidelines on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the event of a Maritime Accident.

The Guidelines require that seafarers should be treated fairly by the port or coastal state, the flag state, the seafarer state and shipowners.

It is important that you understand your rights under these Guidelines so that if you are questioned or detained following a maritime accident, you know what to do and how to protect your interests.

If you are questioned about a maritime accident involving your vessel:

- If you think it is necessary, ask for a lawyer before answering any questions or making any statements to port, coastal or flag State investigators since these could be used against you in future criminal or other legal proceedings
- Contact your company and/or union for advice and assistance
- Make sure you fully understand everything that you are asked

- If there is anything you do not understand:
 - ask the authorities to stop the questioning
 - request the assistance of an interpreter, if necessary

It is important to ensure that you protect your interests first. Therefore, follow the advice you receive from your company, union or lawyer, and importantly, when advised to provide information, be truthful with investigators.

*Protect your interests following a maritime accident
Read the Fair Treatment Guidelines
Know your rights
If in doubt, ask for advice!*