

# Toolbox Talk

## Boarding Ships



### What?

- Ships take most of our goods around the world but like most forms of transportation, they need to dock from time to time for maintenance and repairs
- Sometimes the repairs are extensive and require the ship to be in port for a lengthy time, whereas in most cases the repairs need to be done quickly so that the ship can return to the high seas and head to its next destination

### Why?

- Ships are designed for movement on water and therefore when they dock against a fixed structure it presents risks due to uncontrolled movement relative to the dock itself or any attached gangways or platforms used to access and egress the ship
- People have fallen between a moving ship and dock because they got too close to the unprotected edge or slipped from the gangway
- The height and movement of gangways and the amount of services required during maintenance and repair can exacerbate the dangers making access and egress more hazardous

### Do



- ✓ Make sure gangway is suitable and secure
- ✓ Check gangway is not too steep
- ✓ Make sure batons or anti slip material is in place
- ✓ Check there are no slip and trip hazards or other obstacles impeding safe access
- ✓ Ensure containers with liquid are not leaking and properly sealed to prevent spills
- ✓ Wear the correct type of safety footwear
- ✓ Check soles have good grip and free from mud or other contamination
- ✓ Wear gloves and always hold the handrail when ascending or descending the gangway
- ✓ Always wear your lifejacket before attempting to board and check it's fastened properly
- ✓ Take care when stepping from the gangway onto the ship because of height differences and movement
- ✓ Make sure lighting is adequate especially at night and that you can see properly
- ✓ Take account of weather conditions before deciding when to access the ship
- ✓ Report any unsafe condition or defect to your Supervisor, as soon as possible

### Don't



- ✗ Attempt to access a gangway which is slippery get it washed down
- ✗ Carry things that are too bulky where you cannot see properly
- ✗ Run hoses or cables along gangways, which people can trip over
- ✗ Go near the edge of the dock in case you fall in
- ✗ Run up or down gangway take time and watch your step
- ✗ Carry loose material such as bolts, small tools etc. in case it falls onto gangways
- ✗ Take on board any hazardous liquids, material or gasses unless authorised
- ✗ Forget to wear suitable PPE for the on-board risks
- ✗ Ignore slip or trip hazards report them