

Investigation Report No. 16/15

Date: 15.01.2016

Serious marine casualty

Collision between the MV RED7 ALLIANCE and a lock gate at Brunsbüttel on 17 January 2015

1 Summary

On the morning of 17 January 2015, the special purpose ship RED7 ALLIANCE, sailing under the flag of the Bahamas, arrived at the locks in Brunsbüttel to transit the Kiel Canal during her voyage from Great Yarmouth (GB) to Mukran (D). Apart from the pilot, the master and the second officer were on the bridge for the approach manoeuvre when Neue Südschleuse (new south lock) became available at shortly after 0900¹. Just after the fore spring and stern line had been placed over the quayside bollards, it was a case of finally bringing the RED7 ALLIANCE to a halt. Instead, she continuously accelerated and despite all measures to prevent a collision, rammed the closed lock gate with such velocity at 0942 that exiting again under her own steam was impossible.

Assisted by the tug BUGSIER 21, she was finally hauled out of the lock sternwards and, supported by a second tug, the WAL, towed through Neue Nordschleuse (new north lock) into the inland waterway port at Brunsbüttel.

There was extensive damage to both her bow and the lock gate. Nevertheless, there was no environmental pollution and nobody came to physical harm.

2 SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

The following safety recommendations do not constitute a presumption of blame or liability.

2.1 Rolls-Royce Marine A/S

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation recommends that Rolls-Royce Marine A/S develop technical modifications to the propulsion unit controls, to avoid operating errors as the found here.

2.2 Ship's command of the RED7 ALLIANCE

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation recommends that the ship's command of the RED7 ALLIANCE be continuously aware of the complexity of controlling the Azimuths and avoid routine in the sense of habitual practice.

2.3 DSV Alliance AS, the ship's management

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation recommends that the ship's management of RED7 ALLIANCE continue training its ship's commands in operating the Azimuths on a regular basis.

¹ Unless stated otherwise, all times shown in this report are local = UTC +1.