

NTSB CRUISE SHIP SAFETY FORUM

Panel 2 Accident Investigations

Flag State Investigations by the Bahamas Maritime Authority

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Bahamas Maritime Authority
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The Bahamas
Maritime Authority

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Panel 2 Accident Investigations

- Investigations into casualties on Bahamas passenger vessels
- Obligation of a Flag state to carry out an marine casualty investigation
- Powers and legal authority
- Structure of casualty investigation function within the Bahamas Maritime Authority
- Interactions with other States
- Independence , objectivity and competence of investigators
- Investigation reports – finalisation and publication



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Bahamas Maritime Authority

- Government Agency since 1995
- Flag State Administration
- Around 1600 ships, 57m GT Average age 15 years
- Total Passenger ships 227
- “Cruise” ships 115 6.1 m GT Average age 18.6 years



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Bahamas Merchant Shipping Act s240A

Where a Bahamian ship has sustained or caused any accident occasioning loss of life or any serious injury to any person or has received any material damage affecting her seaworthiness or her efficiency either in her hull or in any part of her machinery, the owner or master shall, as soon as possible after the happening of the accident or damage, report the particulars of the accident or damage to the fullest extent possible, stating the name of the ship, her location, her official number, and port of registry, by the fastest means of communications available to the director or The Bahamas Maritime Authority.



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- Explorer and Voyager – heavy weather damage to windows (2005)
- Seven Seas Navigator – fire (2005)
- Monarch of the Seas – machinery space gas release (2005)
- Quest – grounding (2008)
- Mona Lisa – grounding (2008)
- Black Watch – mooring failure and gangway fall (2008)
- Saga Rose – fatality in enclosed space (2009)
- Braemar – injury in watertight door (2009)
- Carnival Triumph – fire (finalising report)
- Grandeur of the Seas – fire (2014)
- Sea Spirit – fatality from RIB on expedition (2014)
- Marco Polo – heavy weather damage to window February 2014 (commenced)



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SOLAS I/21

Each Administration undertakes to conduct an investigation of any casualty occurring to any of its ships subject to the provisions of the present Convention when it judges that such an investigation may assist in determining what changes in the present Regulations might be desirable.

Catch 22?



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SOLAS IX-1/6

Taking into account regulation 1/21, each Administration shall conduct investigations of marine casualties and incidents, in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention, as supplemented by the provisions of the Code of the International Standards and Recommended Practices for a Safety Investigation into a Marine Casualty or Marine Incident (Casualty Investigation Code) adopted by resolution MSC.255(84)



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Interacting with other States:

- Notification
- Agreement on roles
- Cooperation and pooling resources



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Bahamas Maritime Authority

- Personnel
- Experience and Competence
- Initial response and attendance
 - Interviews
 - Evidence
- Independence



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Bahamas Maritime Authority

- Financial support and resources
- Report drafting and Consultation
- Publication
- Continuous improvement



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Thank You for your attention

Bahamas Maritime Authority
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