



# Cargo hatch speed locks

Safety improvement sheet  
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**Cargo hatch speed locks are also known as quick acting cleats. When the cargo hatches are closed, the hatches are pushed to the cargo hold coaming by the cleats.**

## Why might it be dangerous to work with the cargo hatch speed locks?

The speed locks are operated with a steel bar. The steel bar fits in an opening on top of the speed lock. If tension is put on the speed lock by means of the steel bar and the steel bar slips out of the opening, then it can injure the operator.

## Example of a recent accident

During securing of the cargo hatches with the speed locks, the steel bar slipped out of the opening of the speed lock. The crewmember who was operating the steel bar was hit in the face. This resulted in a few broken teeth and a dislocated lower jaw. It seemed that the tension of the speed lock was too high.

## How can you prevent accidents when working with cargo hatch speed locks?

- Check the correct tension of the speed locks on a regular basis.
- Check the condition of the speed locks on a regular basis. Special attention is required for the condition of the rubber of the speed lock.
- Put the steel bar correctly and completely into the opening of the speed lock.
- The speed lock opening and steel bar must be free of grease to avoid unintentionally slipping of the steel bar.

### Operating the speed locks

When tension of a speed lock is too high, first adjust the tension before operating the speed lock.

**The Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate works at improving safety, confidence and sustainability in regard to transport, infrastructure, environment and housing.**

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