



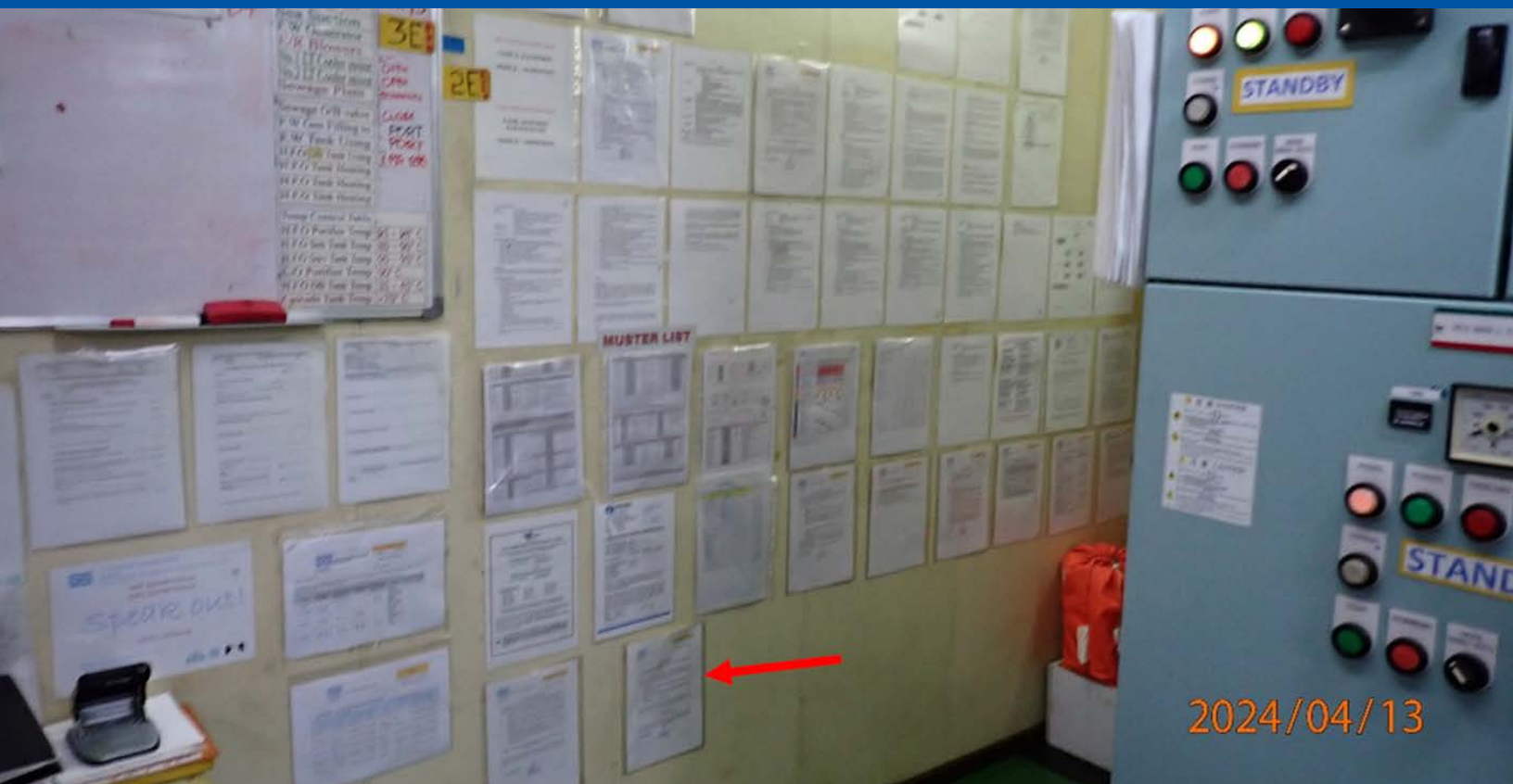
GOOD CATCH from The American Club

Wallpapering the Workspace

STOP WORK POLICY

A quick check...

Can you find the sheet of paper that says, “Everyone has the authority to call and Stop Work if they believe something is unsafe”?



There it is!

We pointed the bright orange arrow at it.

Are all those sheets of paper just “wallpaper”? Do they simply cover the wall and brighten the space? Are they all posted just because the safety management system (SMS) says they have to be prominently displayed for the crew? Are they effective?

Some notices are more important than others and should be more visible and more eye-catching. Safety management systems should include a Stop Work policy. It authorizes everyone onboard to immediately call for a stop to any work being done if they see or think that people, equipment, the vessel, or the environment is at risk and that risk has not been addressed.

Everyone has a responsibility to call “Stop Work” if:

- ★ something is not safe;
- ★ there is doubt about safety;
- ★ conditions are no longer safe;
- ★ a hazard that has not been mitigated becomes apparent; or
- ★ a policy or procedure is about to be violated.

A key aspect is that everyone has the **authority** to stop work **and** the **responsibility** to do it. Crewmembers are empowered by the company’s Stop Work policy.

The Stop Work policy should also be regularly emphasized at Safety Meetings and made part of every toolbox meeting and job safety/hazard analysis. To be effective, the Stop Work policy should also be clearly displayed and not just another sheet that blends in with dozens of other sheets of paper. Don’t make it just “wallpaper.”

When you identify a hazard before something goes wrong...

it’s a Good Catch.

When you stop an operation before something bad happens...

it’s a Good Catch.

When you emphasize the Stop Work policy in every safety discussion...

that’s a Good Catch, too!



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