

JTSB Safety Recommendation to the authorities of the Republic of Malta

October 31, 2019

Marine Accident of Cargo ship "ERNA OLSENDORFF" Collision (Bridge)
Occurred at the Oshima Bridge which spans Obatake Seto,
Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan
October 22, 2018.

It is probable that ERNA OLDENDORFF proceeded under Oshima Bridge, which she was unable to pass through at the heights above the water line at the time of the accident to the top of each cargo crane and the aft mast, because the Master approved the voyage plan, including the route from Onsan to Etajima by way of Obatake Seto, which was prepared by the Second Officer, without being aware of the height of Oshima Bridge, and the Master continued navigating while feeling uncertain about the bridge's height after getting close to the bridge.

It is somewhat likely that although the OLDENDORFF Carriers GmbH & Co.KG specified the procedures of voyage planning, etc. in the Safety Management Manual, etc., the Master and the Second Officer were insufficiently aware of the importance of complying with them, a situation that contributed to the occurrence of this accident.

Therefore, based on the result of the accident investigation, the Japan Transport Safety Board recommends to the OLDENDORFF Carriers GmbH & Co.KG and the authorities of Republic of Malta as follows.

(1) The OLDENDORFF Carriers GmbH & Co.KG is recommended to thoroughly conduct education and training for masters and other crewmembers to ensure voyage planning and implementing in compliance with the Safety Management Manuals revised after the accident.

(2) The authorities of the Republic of Malta are recommended to instruct the OLDENDORFF Carriers GmbH & Co.KG to ensure proper and continuous implementation of above (1).