



On the occasion of the recent launch of the Golden Safety Rules, Dr Henderson emphasises the significance of developing a robust safety culture within shipping, which can act as a pillar of sustainability.

# THE TRIPPLE WIN: SAFETY, DECARBONISATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY



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Leading and managing a shipping company is becoming increasingly complex and is subjected to closer scrutiny from all quarters. Conferences and gatherings such as Posidonia, as well as the media, are currently paying a lot of attention to decarbonisation and sustainability. As a result, the enormous significance of safety in our industry is often either overlooked or pushed down in the industry's agenda due to several factors. One key reason for this is that the pivotal role of safety in a company's daily operations and its close correlation to people, who are central to everything we do, is not fully appreciated. With Together in Safety as their Virtual Safety Partner, which provides proven best practices and the recently launched Golden Safety Rules, companies can easily access ready-made programmes that will improve safety and overall business performance.

Showing commitment to safety will not only motivate and inspire employees but also benefit the decarbonisation and sustainability processes. Safety is therefore essential to the "Triple Win". Implementing the proper safety programme is fundamental to the future success of any shipping company. An excellent safety performance attracts high-quality talent and develops a mindset of learning from each other to deliver solutions to the numerous challenges we face. The successful decarbonisation of shipping will be impossible without a relentless focus on safety. Moreover, a strong safety performance also energises and motivates staff to perform well and increases trust from the very top of the company to the seafarers on the ship while building an impactful reputation for the company and encouraging a positive approach to everyday work.

The Together in Safety Coalition is a unique non-regulatory consortium with representation from across the entire shipping industry working as one united team, which includes ship owners and operators, industry organisations, and many supporting entities, from P&I insurance companies and classification societies to service providers. From the largest to the smallest, all these groups have a significant role to play in Together in Safety. The Golden Safety Rules were developed following a detailed root-cause analysis of incidents that resulted in serious or fatal seafarer injuries, large-scale asset damage, and extensive environmental pollution. These rules build on earlier work by Together in Safety that identified the key strategic drivers of Leadership, Incident Prevention, and Wellbeing & Care. Regarding Incident Prevention, the majority of serious incidents in shipping are caused by just 14 major incident types, including, among others, collisions, groundings, engine room fires, mooring operations, enclosed

space entry, containers lost overboard, and working in heavy weather. It is important to note that such incidents are not accidents but rather recurring/repeat events that could and should have been avoided. If we can address these incidents effectively, a dramatic improvement will be made in safety performance. Together in Safety already provides the shipping industry with best practices for each of the 14 major incident types. Shipping companies do not need to employ expensive consultants or develop costly learning material, as these are all freely available for everyone to use on the Together in Safety website. A straightforward 'Safer in 3 Steps' guide is also available to facilitate the development and implementation of any shipping company's safety programme. The steps involve assessing the situation, taking action by using the Together in Safety resources, and, finally, measuring progress. In essence, Together in Safety is the one-stop shop 'Virtual Safety Partner' for every shipping company.



Together in Safety, complemented by the Golden Safety Rules, offers the global shipping industry everything it needs to make a remarkable improvement in safety performance. The Golden Safety Rules target specific behaviours and risk factors that contribute to common incident types. If implemented, these rules can significantly impact safety outcomes.

The thinking behind the Golden Safety Rules can be traced to the oil and gas industry and the equivalent Life-Saving Rules by the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP), which have had a major impact on the industry, underscoring the effectiveness of such initiatives.

Together in Safety has gone to great lengths to ensure the Golden Safety Rules are clear, concise, accessible, and practical without causing excessive bureaucracy or additional workload for seafarers. They are designed to be applied alongside existing management systems and procedures and are applicable to everyone on a ship.

However, the Golden Safety Rules are only as good as their implementation. Posters and websites showing the Rules are helpful, but further steps must be taken to achieve understanding and ensure their application. They must be introduced from the very top of the company (i.e., the Owner or CEO) and be consistently put into practice by everyone in the organisation if they are to prevent injuries and save lives. Execution is everything.

By informing everyone in shipping about the Golden Safety Rules and making them aware of their benefits, it is hoped that all shipping industry segments will welcome them and embrace them with open arms. After all, no one wants a major shipping incident that results in fatalities and injuries, high costs, delays, and reputational damage for all parties involved. In addition, safety is increasingly being factored into business decisions, and companies prefer to work with organisations that have a strong safety record, as it benefits their overall operational performance and results.

A strong safety performance does not translate into increased costs or higher expenses; in fact, the opposite is true. Crucial to ensuring that an empowering safety culture prevails is that senior management demonstrates visible leadership, thus setting the right tone for everyone else. That entails initiating conversations focused on safety and leaders connecting with those doing the day-to-day work in order to understand their realities and challenges and build trust. Although difficult and time-consuming, it is vital for everyone to feel comfortable enough to speak up and to use incidents as learning opportunities. Improving safety performance will benefit every aspect of shipping, and, in particular, it will help deliver the decarbonisation and sustainability agendas. Safety is a vital component of the 'Triple Win'!