NEW GB MARINE ACCIDENTS
CHIEF

It was announced from London on 15th February that Transport Secretary Lord Adonis had appointed Steve Clinch as the new Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents, the head of the Marine Accidents Investigation Branch (MAIB). He will take up the post later this year, when the current Chief Inspector, Stephen Meyer, retires after more than eight years of distinguished service.

Steve Clinch has been the Deputy Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents since joining the MAIB in 2004. Prior to this, he built up a wealth of experience and knowledge through a career in the commercial shipping industry spanning more than 30 years. He brings with him extensive knowledge of the industry, senior management, ship management and maritime administration.

The key role of the new Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents will be to build on the MAIB’s reputation for excellence in accident investigation, by ensuring that all investigations meet the standards of rigour, objectivity and integrity for which the Branch is widely acclaimed. By working closely with the industry and other stakeholders, while maintaining the essential independence of the Branch, he will ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of developing marine safety.

In an accompanying note to the press release from MAIB the task was encapsulated thus: “The sole objective of an MAIB investigation is to determine the circumstances and causes of an accident, with the aim of improving the safety of life at sea and the avoidance of accidents in the future. It is not the purpose to apportion liability, nor, except so far as is necessary to achieve the fundamental purpose, to apportion blame.”

Located in Southampton, the MAIB is administered by the Department for Transport (DfT), but the Chief Inspector is fully independent in the conduct of investigations.