

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

October 2, 2007

Marine Atlantic provides update on investigation

St. John's – While the Transport Canada investigation into the incident is continuing, Marine Atlantic's internal investigation has concluded that there was no explosion, fire or smoke billowing from either of its lifeboats during the Ocean Guardian III exercise. Marine Atlantic has also received the results of the third party testing of its lifeboats. As part of the investigation on September 28, ADI Limited of Sydney, N.S. tested the air quality on each of the MV *Leif Ericson*'s lifeboats and concluded the lifeboats as they are currently operating meet all requirements. Transport Canada has released the vessel to resume operational duties.

Roger Flood, President and CEO said, "We are pleased with the results and will continue to work with the authorities during the course of the investigation to determine the cause of the illnesses reported during the exercise."

"It was unfortunate that the participants found themselves in a position of responding to a real emergency in which some individuals became ill," said Roger Flood. "The crew of MV *Leif Ericson* performed exemplarily during the exercise, and conducted all emergency and evacuation procedures as required. We were honoured to participate in an exercise the scope of Ocean Guardian III, and our crew and other employees have learned immensely from the exercise."

For the purpose of the air quality tests, all doors and access hatches to the enclosed lifeboat were kept closed for the duration of the one-hour testing period. The lifeboats were monitored for ambient air parameters (temperature, relative humidity, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide). Following the one-hour monitoring period, each lifeboat was checked for oxygen, hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), lower explosive limit, and carbon monoxide. The key readings reviewed for this report were carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide with both results meeting all guidelines.

On September 26 and 27, Marine Atlantic participated in Ocean Guardian III, a multi-jurisdictional, large-scale emergency maritime with over 400 participants exercise held in the Bay of Islands on the west coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. Part of the training exercise involved evacuating a passenger vessel. The evacuation procedures involved trained participants leaving the passenger vessel by life boat, and from there, transferred to another marine vessel.

Contact:
Tara Laing
Communications
Tel: 709.772.8974