

Engine type: M 43, M 43 C, VM 43, VM 43 C

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Important Notice M 43 Connecting Rod Small End Eye

This Service Information applies to M 43 engines with factory acceptance tests until January 2009. M 43 engines with factory acceptance tests as of February 2009 are out of scope.

Based on findings from our product support programs and information gathered in the field, including ultra sonic testing, please be advised that a small number of connecting rods installed in the referenced engines have developed cracks in the area of the small end eye over time. In three cases such cracks led to fatigue failures of the connecting rods and caused severe damage to the engines. The failures occurred between 31,200 and 51,400 operating hours. As the causes of these cracks have not been established, however, we cannot exclude failures outside such range of operating hours.

Since a failure of the connecting rod can put life and limb of the personnel standing next to the engine at risk and pose a threat to the safety of the vessel, we recommend that all connecting rods installed in the engines as well as any spare connecting rods be exchanged at the next scheduled maintenance. In case no maintenance is scheduled for the near future you should contact your MaK Service Dealer to discuss the course of action. Your MaK Service Dealer will also be able to make you a special offer for the exchange.

We regret the inconvenience the proposed exchange of the connecting rods causes. We are working on a procedure that would allow exchanging only the small ends of the connecting rods and hope to be able to offer such alternative to you within the next six months.

We would like to take this opportunity to point out that, as a general precaution, the personnel on board should avoid staying directly next to rotating equipment unless absolutely required. Further, engines should not be exposed to overspeed under any circumstances.