

STOWAWAYS

Stowaways continue to be an increasing problem in many areas, such as Africa, South America and the Caribbean Islands. They often involve the shipowners, charterers and P&I Club in costly and time consuming effort.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Stop them

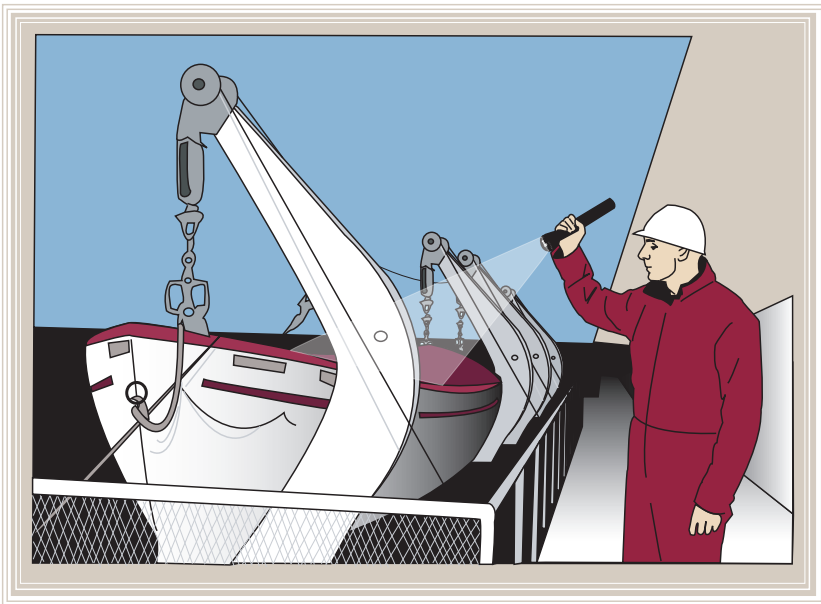
It is important to tighten up access control on the ship. A system of passes can be used for all stevedores to prevent unauthorised persons from boarding. Post crew members to watch the gangway and sides of the ship to prevent stowaways from coming on board.



Stop stowaways boarding

Search the ship

Before leaving ports where stowaways are known to be a problem, make a systematic search of the whole ship. In many ports it is possible to hire security companies which will undertake such searches. This has proved to be very effective.



Thoroughly search the ship before sailing

Hand them over

If stowaways are found, they should be turned over to the port authorities or the police immediately before sailing.



Hand stowaways over before sailing

Turn back?

If the ship has already sailed when stowaways are discovered, consult with the owner's office and the Skuld correspondent on the possibility of returning to the last port.

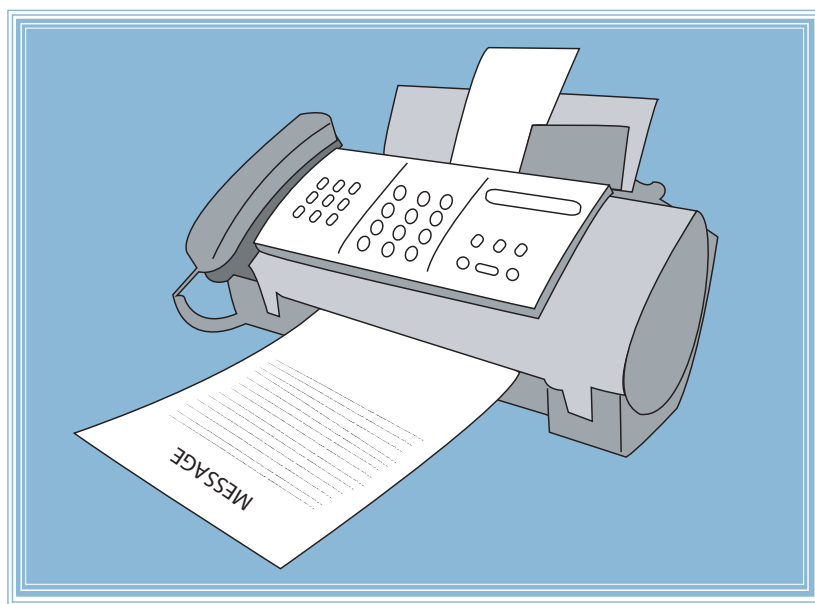


Take advice on turning back

Inform the agent

Try to hand over the stowaways if the vessel returns to the port where they embarked. To make it easier to hand them over to the authorities, you should send a communication to your agent, or the port authorities, informing them that you have discovered stowaways on board after the ship left that port. The message should state that the stowaways will be delivered to the port authorities when the ship returns and the ETA. It is important that this message is sent before the ship calls at another port.

Skuld, if informed about stowaways at an early stage, will try to assist in obtaining permission to return them to their own country. However, kindly bear in mind that this may take some time, and you may be stuck with them for weeks, or even months, before they can be returned. The best advice is – prevent them from boarding the vessel.



Send a message informing the agent

Collect all identification papers

Any information, such as passport details (particularly numbers, dates and places of issue), ID cards and seamen's books can be useful. If these papers are not available, note down the stowaways' names, dates of birth, addresses, nationalities, names of parents and their addresses, religions and tribes (in the case of Africans). Finally, take a passport style photograph and finger prints. These should be sent to Skuld or to the address required by Skuld.



Collect the stowaway's papers

Treat them humanely

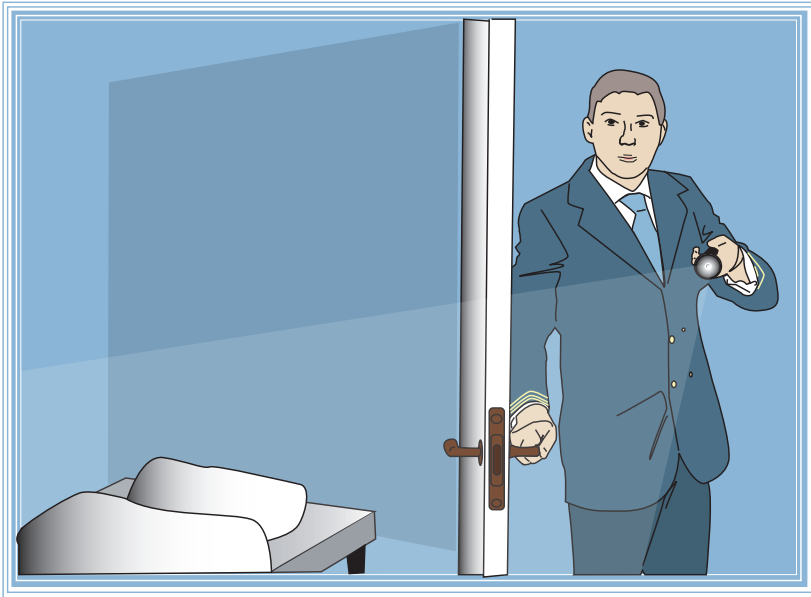
Treat the stowaways humanely and ensure that they are confined to a secure area. Adequate food and accommodation should be provided. We do not recommend that they be put to work or be allowed to associate with the crew. Please bear in mind that if the stowaways are made to feel too welcome, they will tell their friends when they get home. This could encourage others to stowaway.



Keep the stowaway alone in a secure area

Search the stowaways

After a few days, stowaways should be removed from their quarters and searched for ID papers. Their quarters should also be thoroughly searched for any hidden documents.



After a few days make a thorough search for ID papers