



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

Office of the Minister for Trade, Industry, Employment and Communications
Suite 771
Europort
Gibraltar

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MV VERONICA B AND MT GINGA SAKER AVOID COLLISION

The vessels M.V. Veronica B and M.T. Ginga Saker were today involved in a near miss incident in the Bay of Gibraltar.

The Veronica B, a 22536 GRT container ship registered in the Canary Islands, was in-bound to Algeciras, proceeding northwards, whilst the Panama registered Ginga Saker, a 12110 GRT vegetable oil tanker, was departing the north of the Bay of Gibraltar.

The Veronica B made an emergency manoeuvre and successfully avoided a collision with the Ginga Saker. This resulted in Veronica B, striking the end of the North Mole a glancing blow as the manoeuvre caused it to enter the harbour.

The Veronica B was boarded by Gibraltar Port Authority personnel to assess the situation. The ship was then assisted out of the inner harbour by port tugs and the Gibraltar Pilots. Both vessels will remain at anchor within the jurisdiction of the Port of Gibraltar, whilst undergoing Port State Control inspection and investigation by surveyors from the Gibraltar Maritime Administration. The vessels are subject to Preventative Detention under the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control.

The damage to the hull of the Veronica B is well above the waterline and does not pose a threat to the ship's integrity. The damage will be assessed by a Classification Society surveyor and if required, a suitable program of repairs will have to be agreed before the ship is permitted to proceed to its destination.

The Ginga Saker will be required to remain at anchor in Gibraltar waters until the preliminary investigation has been completed.

Any further action by the maritime authorities of Gibraltar will be dependent on the results of the investigation.

There has been no injury to personnel, no damage to the environment and there is no risk of pollution.