



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Fatal Accident of a Crewmember when Working Inside the Forepeak Tank

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Officers and Crews

Summary

A fatal accident occurred on board a Hong Kong registered ship. While working inside the forepeak tank of the ship, an Ordinary Seaman fell down from the stringer to the bottom of the forepeak tank. The investigation revealed that the cause of the accident was due to the failure of crewmembers to follow the safety precautions as laid down in the vessel's International Safety Management Manual (ISM Manual). This Note draws the attention of the shore management and shipboard staff to observe the safety procedures when working on board vessels.

The Incident

1. On 9 March 2006, while a Hong Kong registered ship was en route from Brazil to Singapore, a team consisted of three crewmembers was carrying out maintenance work inside the forepeak tank (FPT). One of the crewmembers was sweeping off debris on the stringer near the edge. He slipped and stumbled over the guardrail of the stringer and fell down to the bottom of the FPT. He died in the incident.

2. The cause of the accident was due to the failure of crewmembers to follow safety precautions as laid down in the ISM Manual of the vessel when working inside the FPT. The following non-compliances were identified:

- The deceased, an inexperienced seafarer, was not adequately trained and supervised to work inside the FPT;
- The working area was slippery and inadequately illuminated; and
- The safety harness of the deceased had not been attached to a secure point.

Lessons Learnt

3. Crewmembers should adhere to the safety procedures as laid down in the ISM Manual when working on board vessels at all times.
4. The attention of shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crews is drawn to the lessons learnt above.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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