



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Fatal Accident of a Crewmember when Working over Shipside

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

Summary

A fatal accident occurred on board a Hong Kong registered ship. A Seaman I fell into the water and drowned when recovering a pilot ladder from the platform of the accommodation ladder over the shipside. This Note draws the attention of the ship management company and shipboard staff to observe the safety procedures when working outboard.

The Incident

1. At about 1849 hours (local time) on 4 September 2008, while a Hong Kong registered car carrier was leaving Ulsan, a Seaman I fell overboard when he was engaged in recovering the pilot ladder at the bottom platform of the accommodation ladder on the starboard side of the vessel. Despite the search and rescue operation jointly conducted by a pilot boat, two tugboats and four Coast Guard boats, the Seaman I could not be found. His body was later found by a fishing boat in the next morning.

2. The investigation into this fatal accident has established that the lack of awareness of the hazards of falling overboard while working over the shipside had contributed to the occurrence of the accident. The Seaman I failed to take safety precautions of wearing safety belt and lifejacket when working over the shipside as stipulated in the International Safety Management Manual of the vessel.

Lessons Learnt

3. It is important to ensure that the safety procedures regarding ship personnel working over the shipside as laid down in the International Safety Management Manual of the vessel are followed at all times. While working over the shipside, the masters and persons in charge e.g. Chief Officer / Bosun should ensure that crew members are wearing safety belts and lifejackets.

4. The attention of shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters and officers is drawn to the lessons learnt above.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

7 September 2009