

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE No. 121 of 2001

(Miscellaneous)

Precautions to be taken in handling piled up plywood boards that packed in bundles

A recent case of fatal accident happened on board a foreign going ship at North West Lamma Anchorage. The stevedores used a fork lift truck to lift bundles of plywood boards in the lower hold of a tween deck cargo vessel. A tally clerk was working on top of coiled steel sheets adjacent to stacks of plywood boards. When he went down from a coil of steel sheet to a space next to a stack of plywood boards, the stack toppled down suddenly and a few bundles fell on him and pressed him down to the hold bottom.

2. Stevedoring companies, person in charge of cargo works, stevedores and workers in the vicinity of cargo works are advised to observe the following precautions when handling stacked cargo to avoid similar accident:

- 2.1 When inserting the fork of a fork lift truck to lift stacked bundles of cargo, care should be taken to avoid the fork pressing against the adjacent stacks and making them unstable.
- 2.2 To avoid high stacks posing threats of collapse, a few bundles from top of each stack should be unloaded first. If this procedure could not be applied under certain circumstances, temporary lashing such as a rope lashed to other stacks or anchoring points clamped to the stiffeners or deck beams should be employed.
- 2.3 Avoid working in the vicinity of the stacked cargo being handled.

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