

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 3 OF 2005

(Miscellaneous Information)

Bulk Cargo Handling

In May 2004, two crewmembers of a river trade vessel standing on top of the gravel cargo trimming the load were killed after being buried by a sudden subsidence of the gravel in the cargo hold. The contributory factors leading to the fatal accident could be attributed to the lack of a person in charge to perform the task of safety supervision, the lack of a safe working procedure for guiding the crewmembers in their normal duty, and the lack of effective emergency measures and procedure to respond immediately to an emergency situation.

To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, owners, masters and operators of local bulk cargo carriers, stevedore companies, owners and master and agents of Mainland coastal and river trade vessels and persons in charge of works are reminded to observe the following safety measures :

- (i) ensure workers or crewmembers do not stand on the bulk cargo to trim the load during discharge; and
- (ii) a safe working procedure, effective communication and safety supervision, as advised in the 'Shipboard Cargo Handling Safety Guide' published by this department, shall be observed and implemented.

S. Y. TSUI
Director of Marine

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