

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 21 OF 2005

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Container Handling

On a rainy day in August 2004, a stevedore was found with fatal head injuries on a container top aboard a dumb steel lighter. The container top was wet and no safety helmet and no portable ladder were found at the scene. None of the stevedores observed how he was injured, however the most likely scenario was that he fell from the top of the next tier container, slipped on landing and hit his head against the sharp corner fitting.

To avoid similar accidents happening in the future, owners, masters and operators of container 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) the person in charge of works should ensure all workers under his supervision use portable ladders to access container tops of the next tier safely, and should ensure the observance of the safe practices as advised in 5.3.13 of the “Safety Guide for Shipboard Container Handling” published by this Department;
- (ii) the principal contractor should ensure the subcontractor follows the above and implements a work control system to provide for personal protective equipment, in particular, safety helmet and slip resistant protective footwear to be worn by all stevedores during works.

R. F. Tupper
Director of Marine (Ag)

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
Date : 16 February 2005
Action File Ref.: SD/MISS 117/1(3)

Our Mission is to Promote Excellence in Marine Services