

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 39 OF 2005

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Maintenance and Repair of Derrick and Permanent Attachments

In November 2004, a worker on board a dumb steel lighter was crushed to death by the derrick counterweight that was being installed at the time of the accident. The counterweight swung free of the guide channel when the lighter rolled excessively. The worker did not have sufficient time to avoid the swinging counterweight due to the limited area for his movement on deck and was crushed against the vessel superstructure. This indicated a lack of awareness of the potential threat of the counterweight. The investigation also revealed that the deceased worker and the derrick operator had not undertaken any safety training as advised by the Marine Department.

To avoid similar accidents from happening in future, owners, companies operating dumb steel lighters, stevedore companies, employers of dumb steel lighter workers, persons in charge of lighters and persons in charge of works are reminded to observe the following safety measures :

- (i) The person in charge of works should ensure that the safe working procedure should include measures for restraining the inadvertent movement of suspended heavy objects being handled manually by workers;
- (ii) The employer and person in charge of works should ensure the workers concerned, including himself, possess adequate and relevant safety training as advised in MDN 174/2004 : Safety Training for Persons Engaged in Shipboard Cargo Handling Operations, Ship-repairing and Ship-breaking and Marine Construction;
- (iii) Owners of dumb steel lighters should ensure that the statutory examinations and inspections of lifting appliances and lift gear are performed and recorded as specified in the instructions of the register of lifting appliances & lifting gear.

S. Y. TSUI
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
Date : 19 March 2005
Action File Ref.: SD/MISS 117/1(3)

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