

## **MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 135 OF 2005**

(Marine Industrial Safety)

### **Mid-Stream Operation – Vertical Tandem Lift**

A fatal accident occurred in June 2005 in which a stevedore was killed while performing a vertical tandem lift of two empty 20 ft containers on board a container ship anchored at North West Lamma Anchorage. During the container handling operation the stevedore signalled a slinger to hook up the stack of two containers with 4 slings, and walked into the space below the containers after the derrick operator had lifted up the containers to a height of about 3 m. At that moment, the four twistlocks connecting the upper and lower containers yielded and the lower container dropped onto the stevedore, resulting in his death. The investigation into the accident revealed a lack of sufficient safety supervision during the container handling operation, with no works supervisor present and none of the stevedores on board having undertaken the “Works supervisor safety training course”. Furthermore, the operation did not follow safe practices specified in the Safety Guide for Shipboard Container Handling issued by the Marine Department

To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, owners, companies operating river trade vessels, stevedore companies, employers of dumb steel lighter workers, persons in charge of lighters and persons in charge of container handling works are reminded to observe the following safe practices:

- (i) Vertical tandem lift of containers in mid-stream operations is prohibited;
- (ii) During container handling operations personnel should stay clear of the traveling path of hoisted containers. Sections 5.1.6, 5.4.6 and 5.4.8 of the Safety Guide for Shipboard Container Handling should be strictly followed;
- (iii) At least one works supervisor should be present on board to ensure that the container handling operation is conducted in a safe manner; and
- (iv) Employers and persons in charge of container handling works should assess from time to time the safety training needs of the persons employed for works.

**S.Y. TSUI**  
**Director of Marine**

Marine Department  
Government of the HKSAR  
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