

Marine Department Notice No. 108 of 2006

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Extension Power Cord

A fatal accident occurred recently in which a crewmember working onboard a locally licensed split hopper barge was electrocuted when operating a portable electric submersible pump for pumping out the bilge water from the void space. The investigation revealed that a multi socket of the extension power cord was wrongly wired. The "live" wire was connected to the "earth" terminal exposing the metal casing of the pump to live voltage. Furthermore, the earth leakage circuit breaker (ELCB) system which provided earth fault protection was not in a working condition. As a result, the circuit breaker of the ELCB system was not triggered and the live voltage caused the electrocution of the crewmember.

It is recommended that the following safety precautions should be followed in electrical connections:

- a) Connections of extension power cables must be wired correctly. Such work should be done by a competent person.
- b) Inspection of the electric circuit protection devices such as ELCB system should be conducted periodically by a competent person.

Owners, operators, masters of vessels and lighters, employers and persons in charge are urged to observe the above-mentioned recommendations in order to prevent recurrence of a similar accident.

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