

**MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 38 OF 2009**

(Marine Industrial Safety)

**Risk Assessment to Workplace and Access to Workplace**  
**Prior to Commencement of Works**

A fatal accident occurred in May 2008 in which a stevedore, whilst proceeding along a walkway between two cargo holds on a container ship, fell about 20 metres to the bottom of the cargo hold and sustained fatal injuries. A foreman rushed to the scene and was rendered unconscious by exposed live electric cables overhanging at the walkway. Investigation into the accidents revealed the following attributable causes:

- i. part of the fencing along the walkway had been removed;
- ii. no lighting was provided at the section of the walkway;
- iii. there were lashing bars lying on the walkway, which created hazards of tripping to people walking pass the walkway;
- iv. disconnected live electric cables were left exposed in the walkway creating a severe hazard.

2. To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, owners and masters of river trade and ocean-going vessels, cargo operators, stevedore companies, workers and persons-in-charge of works are reminded to conduct a risk assessment on the workplace and the access to workplace prior to the commencement of cargo operation on board vessels, especially to ensure that:

- (a) if there is a risk of falling from height, adequate fencing must be provided at the workplace and the access to the workplace;
- (b) sufficient lighting must be provided in the workplace and the access to the workplace, and lashing bars/other objects must not be allowed lying on the access to workplace;
- (c) electric cables must be well protected and live electric cables must not be exposed .

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