

**Fatal Accident on board
the Bahamas registered Ro-Ro-Car/Truck Carrier Platinum Ray
at the Modern Terminals Limited Berth No. 1
1 April 2003**

A. The Incident

1. During unloading of vehicles from Platinum Ray at the Modern Terminals Limited Berth No. 1 at about 1000 on 1 April 2003, the Deck Cadet was accidentally crushed to death by the falling ramp. He was admitted to the Yan Chai Hospital but was later certified dead by an attending doctor.

B. Findings

1. The Chief Officer is responsible for the operation of all ramps to allow the systematic unloading of vehicles on board Platinum Ray. The deceased was assigned to assist him.
2. The Chief Officer was the operator at the console. During the lowering operation of the starboard side ramp, the ramp was momentary jammed in position. The jamming of the ramp might be due to slight deformation of the ramp itself after a period of loading and unloading operations. Despite the jamming obstruction, the ramp legs supporting the ramp continued to retract. As a result the ramp was unsupported. When the ramp was free from the hindrance, it fell all the way down and crushed the Deck Cadet who was standing underneath it (Fig. 1).
3. The Chief Officer did not ensure that the deceased had stood clear of the ramp before lowering it.

C. Lessons

1. The person operating the ramp should ensure all other persons to stand clear of the ramp before lowering it.

Fig. 1 The elevation view of the ramp and ramp legs

