

A Taiwanese stevedore was killed during cargo operation on board the Hong Kong registered general cargo ship “Saga Tucano” on 7 June 2004

1. The Incident

- 1.1 During cargo operation at about 0820 on 7 June 2004 in the port of Kaohsiung, a Taiwanese stevedore working on board a Hong Kong registered General Cargo Ship “Saga Tucano” was trapped between the after crane leg of the No. 1 gantry crane and the ship’s rail on the starboard side of the vessel while the gantry crane was moving aft.
- 1.2 As a result the stevedore sustained serious injury. He was taken ashore at and was transferred to hospital by ambulance, and was later certified dead by the attending doctor.

2. Findings

- 2.1 The clearance between the outboard side of the crane legs and the shipside rails is very narrow of only about several centimeters wide (Figure 1), and is therefore insufficient to accommodate a person in between. Personnel can only walk pass the cranes by going through the gap between the inboard side of the crane legs and the hatch coaming.
- 2.2 At the material time the No. 1 gantry crane was operated by a stevedore. A cargo hold signalman was standing on the No. 3 hatch cover at the material time.
- 2.3 The deceased was standing besides the ship’s rail on the starboard main deck by No. 4 cargo hatch with his upper body leaning forward between the upper rail and the middle rail. His standing position was probably obscured by the crane leg from the sight of the signalman and the crane operator, hence his presence was not noticed when the crane was moved aft.

3. Lesson

- 3.1 All concerned personnel including shore stevedores working on board the

vessel should not stand at the ship's rail on the main deck during cargo operations.

Figure 1 The clearance in between the crane leg to the ship's rail was narrow

