

Fatal Accident During Shifting of *Fo Shan 8 Hao* from the Modern Terminals Limited (MTL) No. 5 to No. 9 on 11 January 2005

A. The Incident

1. At about 1930 on 11 January 2005, while shifting from MTL No. 5 to No. 9, a sailor fell overboard from the starboard bow of the PRC river trade container ship *Fo Shan 8 Hao* and went missing.
2. After about one hour, the Fire Services Department rescue team found his body in the water nearby the ship.

B. Findings

1. The investigation has revealed that the height of the bulwark of the vessel was about 235 mm which was commonly found on board this type of vessels. This bulwark height was not sufficient to prevent people from falling overboard (Figure 1). Therefore people when standing close to it have to be very careful.
2. It was stated by other crew members that the deck was slightly wet and slippery. It is probable that the deceased slipped on deck and lost his balance while tendering the headline. As a result he fell overboard and was drown.
3. The crew members stated that they do not usually wear personal protective gears e.g. safety shoes while working on deck. Therefore it is suspected that the deceased wore a pair of slippers at the material time.

C. Lesson

1. It is important that the crew members should take extra precaution against the risk of falling overboard while working on deck.
2. The crew members should also observe the safe working practices, i.e. wear safety shoes while working on deck.

Figure 1 The height of the bulwark is about 235 mm

