

Fatal Accident of a Crewmember when Working Outboard

1. The Incident

1.1 On 9 November 2005, a Hong Kong registered ship “Hebei Friendship” was alongside a berth and loading maize cargo at Dadong Port in China. At about 1030 hours, An Able Seaman (AB) was tasked by the Chief Officer to take the readings of the forward and after draughts of the vessel. At 1045 hours, a shore labour informed the duty sailor of the vessel that a man i.e. the AB had fallen into the water from the stern of the vessel. The AB was rescued but certified dead later in the hospital.

2. Lessons

2.1 Crewmembers should adhere to the following safety procedures as laid down in the International Safety Management Manual of the vessel when working outboard at all times:

- Crewmember should wear lifejacket;
- Crewmember should wear safety harness attached to a lifeline;
- Two crewmembers should carry out the job together; and
- A lifebuoy attached with a buoyant line should be on standby at the scene.