

Chief Engineer killed after entered into oily bilge tank onboard m.v. “Saga Monal” on 2 May 2007

1. The incident

- 1.1 The accident happened onboard the Hong Kong registered general cargo ship m.v. “*Saga Monal*” (*the vessel*) while she was on voyage from New Orleans to Santos on 2 May 2007. The Chief Engineer found unconscious inside the oily bilge tank by the Wiper. Later the Chief Engineer was certified dead by the Master of the *Vessel*.
- 1.2 It was believed that the Chief Engineer had entered into the tank for oily bilge treatment.
- 1.3 The investigation revealed that the enclosed oily bilge tank was not properly ventilated prior to the entry of the Chief Engineer. He was overcome by the oxygen deficient atmosphere inside the oily bilge tank.

2. Lessons

- 2.1 The oily bilge tank is a confined space, it should be properly ventilated prior to the entry of personnel.
- 2.2 Procedures of the safety management for entry into confined space should be followed.
- 2.3 The company should provide adequate training for confined space entry for all ship’s staff.