

## **Fatal accident of a grit-blasting & painting worker onboard the floating dock *United* at West Tsing Yi on 13 March 2008**

### **1. The Incident**

1.1 When a worker was carrying out grit-blasting to the hull of an ocean-going vessel on the platform of an elevated dock arm of a floating dock, the dock arm collapsed. He fell down together with the dock arm to the bottom of the dock and sustained fatal injury.

1.2 The investigation revealed that the main contributory factors to the accident were:

- the stress-bearing parts in the upper coupling and lower support bushes of the dock arm failed; and
- thorough examination of the dock arm had not been carried out.

### **2. Lessons Learnt**

2.1 It is important that management of dockyards and terminals should carry out open-up inspections to the stress-bearing parts of the lifting appliances every four years as stipulated in the Code of Practice for Competent Examiners on the Examinations of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear on Local Vessels issued by the Marine Department.