

Fatal accident on board the pleasure vessel *Vent D'etta II* in water off Tui Min Hoi on 22 April 2008

1. The Incident

- 1.1 A fatal accident happened on board the locally licensed pleasure vessel *Vent D'etta II* in Hong Kong waters on 22 April 2008. At the time of the accident, the owner of the pleasure vessel had connected a portable electrical submersible water pump to remove seawater from the vessel, which was grounded and partly submerged. The electric power for the pump was supplied from a nearby vessel by means of an extension power cord. The owner of the vessel was electrocuted after switching on the pump.
- 1.2 The investigation revealed that the most probable cause of the accident was due to leakage of electric current from the improperly connected electrical joint between the extension power cord and the power supply cable of the pump.

2. Lessons

- 2.1 The lessons learnt from this accident are:
 - a) Whenever portable electrical equipment is to be used onboard ships or local vessels, the electrical power supply to the equipment should be properly connected, including the earth-conductors; and
 - b) Electrical installation and equipment onboard ships and local vessels must be maintained properly at all times to avoid earth-fault and any such fault should be remedied immediately.