

Fatal Accident on board M.V. "Najran" during cargo handling on 15 May 2008

1. The incident

1.1 At about 2228 on 15 May 2008, an industrial accident happened on board the Saudi Arabia registered container ship "Najran" at Kwai Chung Container Terminal. While a stevedore was walking along a walkway on a lashing platform on the main deck in between No.5 and No.6 cargo holds, he fell about 20 metres down to the bottom of cargo hold and sustained fatal injuries. A stevedore foreman learnt the accident and rushed to the scene. On the walkway, he sustained electric shock injury.

1.2 At the time of the accident, no lighting was provided at the walkway and there was a damaged live electric cable hanging above the walkway. The fencing at one side of the walkway was removed.

2. Lessons

2.1 The following safety requirements under the Shipping and Port Control (Works) Regulation and the International Labour Convention No.152 must be provided at every workplace:

(a) adequate lighting; and

(b) proper fencing to prevent falls from heights.

2.2 After completion of cargo operations, electric power supply cables at lashing platforms should be inspected by a competent person to ensure that they have not been damaged during the cargo operations.