

Suspected Falling Overboard of Deck Cadet from the Hong Kong registered bulk carrier *FEDERAL RIDEAU*

1. The Incident

- 1.1 At about 1700 on 5 August 2008, the Deck Cadet was found missing. It was suspected that he had fallen overboard while he was throwing domestic garbage overboard at the port side on main deck alone without being seen by other crewmembers at time between 1500 to 1530 on the same day, when the vessel *FEDERAL RIDEAU (the Vessel)* was encountered rough weather in positions between 40° 37.8' N 019° 01.9' W and 40° 33.3' N 019° 08.8' W.
- 1.2 At 1900, the Master declared Man Overboard, after searching the whereabouts of the Deck Cadet was in vain and the Bosun reported that he had earlier found the weathertight door leading to the main deck port side was opened, and soft drink cans, a rubber sandal and a cabin's garbage bin were found in the area.
- 1.3 Despite the SAR (Search and Rescue) operation, which was jointly conducted by *FEDERAL RIDEAU* and other vessels as well as a SAR aircraft in the vicinity, the missing Deck Cadet still could not be found. The SAR operation was stopped at 2125 on 6 August 2008.
- 1.4 This incident was caused by the failure of the Deck Cadet to follow the Master's instructions of not to go on to open deck in rough weather without his permission.

2. Lessons

- 2.1 It is important for the Masters to take measures to ensure that in rough weather, no crew members will be allowed to go on open deck without their permission. Special attention should be paid by Masters and Officers to newly-joined and / or inexperienced junior officers and ratings on their safety awareness in shipboard environment.