



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Fatal accident of man overboard under influence of alcohol

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Officers and Crew

Summary

When a Hong Kong registered bulk carrier was berthed alongside at port, an assistant electrical officer (AEO) consumed alcohol with other crew in a cabin during their rest period. Thereafter, the AEO went outside the accommodation. About 1 to 2 minutes later, he was found fallen overboard. He was rescued back to the vessel but later declared dead due to drowning. This Note draws the attention of shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crew to the lessons learnt from this accident.

The Incident

1. When a Hong Kong registered bulk carrier was berthed alongside at port, an assistant electrical officer bought a bottle of vodka from shore. He consumed the alcohol with other crew in an oiler's cabin during their rest period. Thereafter, the assistant electrical officer went outside the accommodation for reason unknown. About 1 to 2 minutes later, he was found fallen overboard and rescued back to the vessel for first aid treatment. But he was declared dead later due to drowning.
2. The investigation revealed the contributing factors to the accident are as follows:
 - (a) the assistant electrical officer under the influence of alcohol, might have lost his balance and fell into the sea from the shipside; and
 - (b) the vessel failed to implement the alcohol policy set by the company.

Lessons Learnt

3. It is important that masters, all officers and crew on board ships should strictly follow the alcohol policy set by the company even during rest hours.

4. The attention of shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crew is drawn to the lessons learnt above.

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