



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Fatal Accident of a Crewmember when Working Outboard

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

Summary

A fatal accident occurred on board a Hong Kong registered ship. An Able Seaman (AB) fell into the water and was drowned when climbing down the Jacob ladder on the poop deck to take the after draught reading. The investigation revealed that the cause of the accident was due to failure of the crewmember to follow the safety precautions as laid down in the vessel's ISM Manual. This Note draws the attention of the shore management and shipboard staff to observe the safety procedures when working outboard.

The Incident

1. On 9 November 2005, a Hong Kong registered ship was alongside a berth and loading maize cargo at Dadong Port in China. At about 1030 hours, an Able Seaman (AB) was tasked by the Chief Officer to take the readings of the forward and after draughts of the vessel. At 1045 hours, a shore labour informed the duty sailor of the vessel that a man i.e. the AB had fallen into the water from the stern of the vessel. The AB was rescued but certified dead later in the hospital.

2. The cause of the accident was due to the failure of the crewmember to follow safety precautions as laid down in the International Safety Management Manual of the vessel when working outboard that:

- Crewmember should wear lifejacket;
- Crewmember should wear safety harness attached to a lifeline;
- Two crewmembers should carry out the job together; and
- A lifebuoy attached with a buoyant line should be on standby at the scene.

Lessons Learnt

3. Crewmembers should adhere to safety procedures as laid down in the International Safety Management Manual of the vessel when working outboard at all times.
4. The attention of shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crews is drawn to the lessons learnt above.

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