



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Proper Stowage of Heavy Cargoes at Loading Port

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

Summary

A fatal accident happened onboard a Hong Kong registered vessel, in which one stevedore was killed during discharging of heavy cargo of granite blocks. This note is to draw the attention of Masters and Officers the importance of proper stowage of heavy cargo at loading port.

The Incident

1. A stevedore was killed onboard a Hong Kong registered vessel during discharging of heavy cargo of granite blocks from one of the cargo holds.
2. The granite blocks were stacked inside the cargo hold in 3 to 4 tiers in a disorder manner. During the preparation for lifting one of the granite blocks, which was rectangular in shape about 25 tonnes in weight, a stevedore climbed down into the gap between granite blocks to bring one of the two lifting chains around the bottom of the block prior to lifting. Suddenly, the granite block slid towards him. He sustained fatal head injury.

Lessons Learnt

3. To facilitate the safe slinging of granite blocks during unloading, dunnage should be provided during loading cargo at the loading port. To prevent the collapse or shift of stacked granite blocks, small gaps between the blocks should be properly chocked and wedged with timber at the loading port.
4. During discharging of heavy cargo, adequate safety measures should be taken to prevent sudden shifting of cargo during handling.
5. The attention of ship managers, ship operators, masters and officers is drawn to the lessons learnt above.

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