



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Fire Accidents During Repairs in Dockyards

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

Summary

Two separate fire accidents, caused by hot works, happened onboard two Hong Kong registered ships while they were under repairs in dockyards with a total of three persons were killed. This note is to draw the attention of Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Officers, and the importance of taking proper precautionary measures when performing hot work in dockyards.

The Incident

1. In the first incident, an engine room fire occurred while the vessel was mooring in dockyard for repairs. When dockyard workers were carrying out gas-cutting work, the hot molten metal oxide and sparks generated came into contact with and ignited the diesel oil collected in the drip tray of the fuel booster pumps situated underneath. The heat of the fire melted the flange gaskets of the pipelines of the fuel tanks. As a result, more fuel oil spilled out from the damaged flanged gaskets that intensified the fire. One shore person was killed and one engineer was injured in the incident.

2. In the second incident, a fire broke out in the accommodation spaces of the vessel when dockyard workers were undertaking repair work. The fire was caused by the heat produced by the flame-cutting work on a weather-tight doorsill at port aft on the boat deck. The heat generated ignited the wooden lining of the bulkhead in the vicinity of the weather-tight door. The fire spread throughout the accommodation spaces killing one company representative and a wife of a crewmember.

Lessons Learnt

3. The lessons learnt from these accidents are:
 - a) the repair contract / agreement signed between a ship manager and a shipyard should clearly define the key responsibilities in respect of safety;
 - b) safety awareness of ship staff should be enhanced and they should not hesitate to intervene and even stop the repair work if they see something that, in their opinion, poses an immediately threat to the safety of or life on the ship;
 - c) precautionary measures against fire should be taken before any hot work is carried out no matter of the work is being conducted by dockyard workers;
 - d) all combustible materials in the vicinity and underneath the place of hot work should be removed.

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

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