



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Falling from height fatal accident inside cargo hold during cleaning

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

Summary

A sailor while working on board a Hong Kong registered ship fell at a height of about three metres into the cargo hold during hold cleaning operation. He sustained serious injury and died later in the hospital. This Information Note draws the attention of the ship owners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crew on the lessons learnt in the accident.

The Incident

1. The accident happened on board a Hong Kong registered general cargo ship while the crew were carrying cargo holds cleaning while the vessel was at berth.
2. In the process of cleaning a cargo hold, a sailor climbed up a ladder to a height of about three metres above the tank top of the cargo hold. While he was trying to secure his lifeline to the metal ring on the bulkhead that was about one meter away, he fell down from the ladder as he performed this action. The sailor was sent to the hospital for medical treatment and subsequently passed away.

The Cause

3. The investigation revealed that the main contributory factor to the accident was related to the working attitude and safety awareness of the sailor. The sailor should stop working under unsafe condition. He should only resume his action after the ladder was relocated closer to the ring and could allow him to secure his lifeline safely without having to reach out extensively to completing this action.

Lesson Learnt

4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crew should observe the safe working practice of working at height. Do not take short cuts that may affect their safety while performing their duties.

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