



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

A bosun died after falling down from a low-rise stepping platform on the main deck

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

Summary

While a bosun was cleansing the hatch coaming of a cargo hold, he fell from a low-rise stepping platform and died. This information note draws the attention of Ship owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Crewmembers to the lessons learnt from this accident.

The Accident

1. Crew members of a Hong Kong registered bulk carrier were engaged in the main deck cleansing work while the vessel was sailing in the Yellow Sea. At the time of the accident, the bosun was standing on a stepping platform which was about 0.85 metre in height above the deck to cleanse the hatch coaming of a cargo hold using a water hose. Suddenly, he fell from the platform and sustained serious injuries to his head.
2. Investigation into the accident revealed the probable main contributory factor as follows:
 - a) while concentrating on his work and with his back to the side of the platform, the bosun might not have been aware that he was already standing near the edge of the stepping platform and was prone to losing his footing and eventually fell;
 - b) the bosun's alertness of getting hurt from a fall off a low-rise platform might have been low; and
 - c) probably owing to losing his footing, the bosun fell backwards from the platform with the back of his head hitting against the deck and sustained serious injury to the back of his head.

Lessons Learnt

3. Crew members working on board should always maintain their alertness even when they are working on a low-rise stepping platform.
4. The attention of Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Crewmembers is drawn to the lessons learnt above.

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