



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

A Man fell overboard and drowned

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

Summary

An officer of a Hong Kong registered ship fell overboard from main deck and drowned while he was taking draught readings alone over the starboard side of the vessel. This Information Note draws the attention of the shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crew to the lessons learnt from the accident.

The Incident

1. A Hong Kong registered bulk carrier vessel was about to depart from a port after finished discharging cargo. The second officer went down from the gangway to the pier and walked towards the bow of the ship. Shortly afterwards, he returned to the ship and walked through the cross deck passage aft of the No.5 cargo hold to the starboard side of the ship. Since then, nobody saw him again. At night, his body was found floating in water in the vicinity of the ship.
2. The investigation revealed the following contributory factors of the accident:
 - a) after cargo operation, the mixture of cargo residues and rain water caused the deck and deck fittings slippery that led the second officer to slip and fall overboard when he was leaning his upper body over the ship side to take the starboard side draught readings; and
 - b) the second officer did not follow the shipboard safety procedures for working over the ship side.

Lessons learnt

3. It is important that when it is required to work over the ship side, crew members should strictly follow the relevant safe working procedures stipulated in the Safety Management System Manual of the Company. Extra precautions should be taken when the deck surface in the working area is slippery. Crew members should maintain good communication among themselves as far as practicable. They should avoid working alone.

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

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