



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Fatal fall from staggered vertical ladders

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

Summary

A Second Engineer of a Hong Kong registered bulk carrier fell from a set of staggered vertical ladders to the bottom of a cargo hold while participating in its cleaning, resulting in his death. This Note draws the attention of shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crew to the lessons learnt from this accident.

The Incident

1. When a Hong Kong registered bulk carrier completed partial cargo discharge at berth, a safety meeting regarding the cleaning of empty cargo holds was held onboard. After the meeting, the Second Engineer and the rest of the working crew started to clean a cargo hold with oily cargo residue by using compressed air. Whilst the Second Engineer climbed down a set of staggered vertical ladders carrying with him the hose for compressed air, he suddenly fell to the bottom of the cargo hold from a height of three to four metres, resulting in severe cerebral injury beyond treatment.
2. The investigation identified that the requirements and procedures of cargo hold cleaning work as stipulated in the shipboard safety management manual had not been followed, in particular failure to wear a safety belt when working aloft, holding tools when climbing along ladders, and lack of supervision by the designated person-in-charge.

Lessons Learnt

3. It is important that all crew should be conversant with and abide by the requirements and procedures of cargo hold cleaning work in the shipboard safety management manual, and wear personal protective equipment such as safety belts when working aloft.

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

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