



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Fatal accident involving working underneath gantry crane

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

Summary

The Second Officer of a Hong Kong registered container carrier was hit by a falling container twistlock while monitoring cargo operation on the upper lashing bridge platform, resulting in his subsequent 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. During the cargo operation of a Hong Kong registered container carrier at berth in port Manzanillo, Mexico, the Second Officer was accidentally hit by a container twistlock which fell from a height of about 9.5 metres while he was working on the upper lashing bridge platform. The Second Officer was found lying unconsciously on the platform with his head bleeding. Although first aid treatment was applied, he was subsequently declared dead on board.

2. The investigation revealed that the contributing factors to this accident were the Second Officer's failure to strictly follow company safety procedures to stay away from the hazardous zone underneath the container while it was being restowed by a gantry crane; and inadequate safety precautions in cargo handling to prevent the potential risk of twistlocks being dislodged and falling down.

Lessons Learnt

3. The ship management company should promulgate its cargo handling safety procedures and enhance the awareness of seafarers regarding the potential risk of staying underneath a gantry crane in operation.

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

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