

## **MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 78/2022**

(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)

### **Man overboard incident during unloading operation**

#### **The Incident**

A man overboard incident happened on board a Chinese Mainland-registered coastal container vessel (the vessel) during an unloading operation at the Kwai Chung Container Terminal, Hong Kong at night. When terminal workers were unloading cargo, they saw a floating humanlike object in the water near the vessel and notified its crew. The crew counted the number of people on board and found that the chief engineer was missing. Upon receipt of the incident report, Marine Police, Fire Services Department and Marine Department arrived at the scene to carry out a search and rescue operation. The floating humanlike object was found and salvaged from the water near the vessel. The crew confirmed that the man overboard was the missing chief engineer. He was later certified dead.

2. The investigation revealed that the contributory factors leading to this fatal accident might be that the chief engineer wearing slippers was under the influence of alcohol or that he might have also been tripped over by objects when he strolled or stood on deck, resulting in loss of balance and falling overboard. Moreover, the chief engineer might have hit his head on a hard object during the fall, and the influence of alcohol had also compromised his ability to survive in the water. He was drowned eventually.

## **Lessons Learnt**

3. Shipowners shall inform all coxswains and crew members on board of the investigation results and the lessons learnt from this accident.

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**Director of Marine**

Marine Department

Government of the HKSAR

Date: 8 April 2022

Action file ref.: L/M No. 2/2022 in MAI/P 901/027-2021