The fatal accident on board Hong Kong registered bulker carrier “BBG Carrier” at Praia Mole anchorage, Brazil on 1 October 2017

1. The incident

1.1 On 1 October 2017 between 1945 hours and 2000 hours, a fatal accident happened on board the Hong Kong registered bulk carrier BBG Bright (the vessel) which anchored at the No. 3 anchorage of Praia Mole, Brazil. While the bosun was walking up the stairway between A deck and B deck with both his hands holding a set of music audio system, he fell down from the stairway and hit his head seriously to his death. At the material time, the weather was bad with north-east wind force 6 to 7 and wave height of 3 to 3.5 metres. The vessel rolled moderately with sudden and heavy rolling intermittently.

1.2 The investigation identified that:

a) the bosun might lose his balance and fell down from the stairway due to a sudden and heavy rolling of the vessel and/or under the effect of alcohol; and

b) the bosun was lack of safety awareness. He used both hands to hold the three-piece music audio system and did not leave a hand free to hold the handrail when walking up the stairway.

2. Lessons learnt

2.1 All crew including the master must take care of themselves when moving around the ship at all times.

2.2 Care should always be taken when walking up and down of stairways by holding handrail throughout the walk.

2.3 The company’s alcohol policy should be strictly followed.